

Sped Edmund Salloway, Esq. Strand,

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and, by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—*Humboldt's Cosmos.*

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SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1856.

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Review of the Week.

THE course of events in Downing-street and the Parliament has been the natural sequel to the American despatches of last week. We have already described in general terms the nature of these papers, and the reader will find that our description was exact. Mr. MARCY announces on behalf of his Government that it is satisfied with the explanations of our Ministers touching the enlistment, but that it has additional proofs of Mr. CRAMPTON's personal activity in the unlawful collection of recruits, and that his continued presence in Washington was impracticable; and, in fact, he has been sent home. Another despatch responded to that offer of submitting the Central American question to arbitration, which is said to have originated with our Government. Mr. MARCY does not think it necessary to render England and America parties in a litigation of which a foreign Power shall be the judge, but he proposes to refer the particular points, such as the rightful ownership of Ruatan, the true limits of Belise, and the extent of the Mosquito rights, to persons—probably intellectual and scientific men—who would be competent to decide on such questions. We have not the rejoinder of Ministers on this proposal, but it seems too sensible for acceptance according to official routine.

When we went to press last week there was the utmost doubt as to the manner in which they would reply to the dismissal of Mr. CRAMPTON. The choice lay before them of self-destruction, by retaliating with the dismissal of Mr. DALLAS, provoking a rupture with America, and calling forth an indignant burst of protest and resistance in this country, or of submitting to the course which their obstinacy had forced upon America. They submitted. Lord JOHN RUSSELL had plainly enough intimated to them, that if they did not submit, they would have so much of the public as he could lead; besides, of course, "her Majesty's Opposition," the manufacturing interest, the Peace interest, the commercial interest, and, we may add, the great bulk of the people, who would regard a war with America as a diversion in favour of European despotism. We have repeatedly exposed this tendency of the official policy, and we are delighted to find that the question is now distinctly understood by leading men in America, who neither ascribe to the English people the misconduct of our Government, nor are prepared to

assist in getting up a diversion which may serve despotism in the South of Europe. So far, then, the immediate danger has passed for the day: the prospect we have discussed in a separate paper.

By the Himalayah we learn that Mr. BUCHANAN had been nominated in the Democratic Convention for the Presidency. There were several candidates; but it was reckoned that if he were nominated, the Democratic party would remain undivided, its majority at the final election would be unbroken, and the candidate would be sure of being placed in the Presidential chair. What is more, Mr. BUCHANAN exactly fits the actual position of the Union at the present day. In his conduct of the Legation in London he showed that he could be firm and independent; whilst it is notorious that he entertains no unfriendly feelings towards this country. He has a practical knowledge of business matters, and sees the crime and folly of permitting the two nations to be led into mutual suicide by their official managers. He has been a vindicator of Northern opinions and Northern policy within the Union, but he has been no Abolitionist, no Fusionist. He has respected the independence of the Southern States; he has respected, we may add, the difficulties inevitably thrown upon them by the existence of a slavery which they did not create. He has resided at European courts; he has lived in the midst of the commercial centres of Europe and America; he is personally acquainted with the distinguished men of both continents. He is a strong, practical, far-seeing man, who takes an enlarged view of political subjects, but is not led away by unapplied theories. If he is President, he will not consent to be governed by his subordinates; he will hold himself responsible to the whole republic, and will act by the lights of intelligence, conscience, and experience. Our Government will find him no pliant negotiator, but it will find him always ready to defer to the dictates of justice and generosity.

If we blame Mr. CRAMPTON and the British Government for creating a confusion, and in that confusion a diversion from duties which we owe to the Liberal cause in Europe, how much more must we condemn those madmen who, imitating the bigotry of the Abolitionists in times past, positively identify the defence of slavery with the defence of republicanism, invade States to enforce their views with the bowie-knife and revolver, assail individual statesmen with violence for the expression of opinion, and actually

threaten to divide the Union by civil war! It is quite impossible that these men of the South can actually succeed against the majority of the Union; but they may succeed in giving a holiday for despotism, which it will know how to use against the progress of mankind.

Lord PALMERSTON has assured the House of Commons that the naval force sent to the waters of Central America is under no instructions which will lead to hostilities. But a naval force has been sent, and our navy is kept up to a high strength, while already plans are under discussion for reducing the army which we can want in Europe alone.

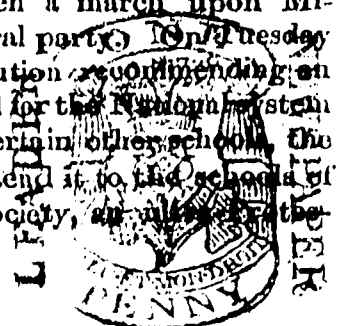
The complement of the Sardinian Loan has been duly forwarded in Parliament, but what steps have been taken to support Italy against those Austrian aggressions which have been as bad, and have endured much longer than the Russian aggressions upon Turkey? If the Government at Constantinople merited our support, how much more the Government at Turin. Over these questions all is darkness.

We only know that rigours continue in Milan, Rome, and Naples, and that Florence becomes daily more Austrian.

While the waters of the Rhône are falling, the fireworks rise to celebrate the baptism of "the Son of France." The Prince is elevated above his father's head to receive the homage of the people, while the "Third" NAPOLEON is negotiating to bring home the exiled remains of the unhappy Duke of "REICHSTADT."

The proceedings in our Parliament have not advanced much the business of the session. In some respects there has been a tendency to undo work done. The reduction of the army is talked of, but talked of in a manner which implies a compromise between a mere return to the *status quo ante bellum* and a little "reform." We expect that if our army should not be called upon for service in a comparatively brief period, it will return to the state that it presented three years ago, with a slight improvement in deference to the demand for better education, examinations, and so forth.

Mr. WALPOLE has stolen a march upon Ministers and upon the Liberal party. On Tuesday evening he moved a resolution recommending an extension of the aid granted for the National System of schools in Ireland to certain other schools, the special object being to extend it to the schools of the Church Education Society, an ally of the



tant body, which has actually tried to undermine the National system, and to counteract it in every particular. This motion was unexpectedly carried by 113 to 103. The accident was explained at once, by the fact that the Queen had a ball at Buckingham Palace; but the *Daily News* contends that that explanation is insufficient. There were fifty-six pairs, making really 112 in favour of the motion, and 161 against it. It was debated for five hours, and cannot in any respect be considered as a surprise. There can be no doubt, however, that the majority of the House of Commons have no intention of affirming any such motion; and Mr. FORTESCUE will bring forward a resolution on Monday next, having the effect of rescinding the vote. We all know that the Opposition can muster something approaching to two hundred members; it did not require Tuesday night to exhibit that fact; and we expect to find no very great addition to that adverse body on Monday next, when it will of course be swamped by the great bulk of the Liberal party.

On the same day the Lords are to take a trial of strength in resisting improvement. Lord DERBY will attempt to throw out the Oath of Abjuration Bill on its second reading, and he will then graciously substitute a bill slightly improving the present oath of abjuration, by striking out the obsolete reference to the Pretender, but still excluding the Jew. The question is, whether the Lords will assent to the improvement presented to them as it is in the plainest and least offensive form, or whether they will wait for a later day, when they will be compelled to swallow a much more disagreeable measure.

The Royal prerogative has been exercised in making Sir EDMUND LYONS a Peer, Sir BALDWIN WALKER a baronet—the one “in consideration of his services while in command of the Mediterranean fleet,” the other “in recognition of great ability and unwearied assiduity in fulfilling the laborious duties of Surveyor of the Navy.” Sir BALDWIN has been hard-worked; but do all able and hard-worked men in the public service get baronetcies? Sir EDMUND LYONS is a gallant, honourable, clever man, who knows when to give a hint in time, and when not to give it. His daughter honoured a Duke's heir with her hand; Sir EDMUND was popularly regarded as the man that ought to have been first appointed to the Black Sea in lieu of DEANS DUNDAS; and the Peers will cordially shake hands with their new companion. Our naval contemporary, the *United Service Gazette*, hints that the creation will not be so very popular with the service. NELSON and other great admirals have been made Peers, but only for great victories; LYONS might have been a NELSON if he had had an opportunity; but he had not. He has, however, been a diplomatist; he could perhaps criticize the proceedings in the Black Sea; but will he not know on which side his bread is buttered—especially when he has so very fine a slice? We wish the excellent old gentleman joy of his title, and the Ministers of their most creditable champion that will be in Parliament!

At home, outside the walls of Parliament, we have had many varieties of public demonstration. We have had the Crystal Palace Company displaying its newly completed waterworks in the presence of the QUEEN and of a holiday multitude; we have had Sir WILLIAM OF KARS, the most chivalrous man of our day, welcomed home by his countrymen at Dover—scene of so many historical landings; and we have had WILLIAM PALMER, the eminent poisoner, hanged before a great concourse at Stafford. The spectacles have all been characteristic of the day—inventive amusement uniting royalty and commonalty; return from war; and revenge for that criminal who has exasperated society as much by disclosing its own disorders, as he has by cheating it for so many years into believing him a respectable man.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, June 16th.

THE SARDINIAN LOAN.

IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS, the LORD CHANCELLOR brought up the Queen's message on the Sardinian Loan, which was ordered to be taken into consideration on Thursday next.—The Loan, which was for a second million, was agreed to in the Lower House without discussion.

JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES BILL.

After the presentation of petitions against this bill by Lord OVERSTONE, who thought that the measure would lead to fraud and bickering, the second reading was moved by Lord STANLEY OF ALDERLEY. He explained that the object of the bill is, in the first place, to repeal the Joint Stock Companies Act of 1844, and the Limited Liability Act of last year, with the view of consolidating the law for the regulation of Joint Stock companies, whether limited or unlimited. By the present measure, it is proposed that all companies consisting of more than twenty members should be incorporated compulsorily, and that, with respect to all companies of from seven to twenty members, the bill should be simply permissive. When the articles of association have been executed and the registry established, the company will be entitled to complete registration, and will be enabled to exercise corporate functions. Great complaints having been made with regard to the registration under the Joint Stock Companies Act, it was proposed to substitute for it a register which is to be kept at the office of the company, and to be accessible to the public on payment of a small fee. Registration is to be evidence of liability. There is one provision which he thought likely to be of great service to companies, by preventing improper management; he referred to the power which was given to one-fifth of the shareholders to secure the appointment of an inspector by the Board of Trade to investigate the company's affairs. It is provided that a company may instantly be wound up when it becomes evident that it is insolvent, when it has existed for a year without having commenced business, when it has expended three-fourths of its capital, and when it has ceased to pay its debts. In such cases, the members might petition the court, which would immediately proceed to wind up the affairs of the company.

Lord MONTAGUE opposed the bill, which he said would establish “a gambling shop in every corner.”—The Duke of ARGYLL defended the measure, and the second reading was affirmed by 18 to 5.

OUR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH AMERICA.

The Earl of DERBY called the attention of the House to the state of our relations with America, and wished to know what conclusion the Government had arrived at in the present emergency.—The Earl of CLARENDON answered that the papers laid before the American Senate would be presented officially to the House of Lords when the replies of the English Government had been drawn up and returned; but there was no reason why he should not at once state that it was not the intention of himself and colleagues to suspend diplomatic relations with the United States.—The Earl of DERBY remarked that it would be premature to enter into discussion. He rejoiced personally in the announcement which had just been made (*loud cheers*), because, though he deeply regretted the course pursued by the United States Government, it was impossible to approve the acts of our own representative. He was glad we had acknowledged our error, even though at the cost of national humiliation.—The Earl of CLARENDON hoped that the House would not follow the example of the Earl of Derby, in prejudging Mr. Crampton.—After an explanation from the Earl of DERBY, who said he had formed his judgment solely on the papers which had been laid upon the table by Government, the subject passed.

The same question was brought before the notice of the House of Commons by Lord JOHN RUSSELL, who, on the order for going into Committee of Supply, asked the Government for explanations. With respect to the dismissal of Mr. Crampton, his Lordship was of opinion that the Government had no alternative but to break off all connexion with the United States if Ministers thought that the dismissal of Mr. Crampton was intended as a wanton insult to this country; but, if they had no reason to think so, not only former examples, but the peculiar circumstances of this case, rendered it, in his opinion, desirable to accede to the proposition of the United States Government, and to enter into negotiations, both with respect to the recruiting question and to the disagreement in the interpretation of the Bulwer-Clayton Treaty. These negotiations could not be better conducted than between Mr. Dallas and Lord Clarendon; indeed, he thought that, if we could not carry on negotiations directly, it would be inconsistent with our dignity to do so indirectly. Adverting to the present condition of Nicaragua, he observed:—“It is very possible that President Rivas, having the assistance of so enterprising a man as Walker, may make an incursion into the Mosquito territory, and even assault the inhabitants of Greytown. The question is, what would be done by our Government in that case? No doubt they would consider it their duty to protect British persons, British property, and British interests; and I cannot wonder that for that purpose they should desire to have

a sufficient naval force at Greytown. But we ought to have some information as to what they may think fit to do further. Whether they propose to interfere in the affairs of Nicaragua and Greytown, I know not; but I think it a question upon which we ought to have some information. (*Hear, hear.*) And I say this the more, because the reports upon the subject are very conflicting. I saw to-day a statement in the newspapers that the ships of the United States were allowed to carry men, passengers, and military stores, to swell the forces, no doubt, of Nicaragua, without molestation from her Majesty's ships of war, and I have seen what is alleged to be a telegraphic despatch to the commander of her Majesty's ship Eurydice in reference to the practice of interfering with vessels entering into the harbour of Greytown, which I think requires some explanation in order that the anxiety that prevails on the subject may be set at rest.” It was but too obvious that some accidental and unforeseen circumstance might occur in the waters of Central America which might bring about a collision between the naval forces of the two countries. “For my own part, I do hope that the commanders of the ships of war belonging to the United States, and the commanders of the ships of war belonging to her Majesty, will receive such orders respectively, that they will act completely in concert, and not allow those miserable states in Central America, with their revolutions and squabbles, to commit two great and powerful nations, and to bring them into hostile collision. (*Hear.*) I need not, I am sure, dwell upon the misfortunes that would arise from such an event; they are obvious to everybody. The evils which would ensue if these dissensions should unfortunately increase to a serious quarrel—much more if they should lead to actual hostility between this country and the United States—the miseries which would follow to both nations from such a contest are incalculable, and such as no man in this country or in America can contemplate without alarm and repugnance. (*Hear.*) With regard to the power of the two nations, there can be no question that they are both powerful, and capable of sustaining a long and expensive war. But it is equally clear that the cause of humanity, the cause of peaceful commerce, and the cause of civilization and progress, would suffer severely in the conflict. (*Hear.*) It is clear that throughout the continent of Europe every man who is the advocate of national and individual liberty, every man who desires to see the cause of freedom prevail, would deplore such a contest between two such nations as a great calamity; and it is in my mind equally certain that all who wish the reign of tyranny to continue in those countries of Europe which are now oppressed, would rejoice at it.”

Lord PALMERSTON, in reply, gave explanations similar to those of Lord Clarendon in the Upper House. His statements were received with loud cheers. With respect to the apprehensions expressed by Lord John Russell, the Premier observed:—“I can assure my noble friend and the House that it is the earnest desire of her Majesty's Government to avoid any occasion that might by possibility bring about such a collision. (*Hear.*) The instructions which have been given to the commanders of the British naval force relate only to the protection of British subjects and British property; and there is nothing in those instructions which can tend to a collision between that force and the American naval force in those waters. Considering the uncertain position of our relations with that naval power, we undoubtedly did think it right that our force in those seas should be placed in such a condition as should enable it to meet any danger that might occur. We thought it right to take that precaution; but in doing so we gave instructions to prevent our becoming the aggressors.” His Lordship concluded:—“With regard to the conduct of her Majesty's Government, I may be permitted to say that, while on the one hand this country was never in a more fitting condition to carry on war, if war be forced upon her, that state of preparation in which we may boast enables us, without derogation to the national honour, to act with calmness, moderation, and full deliberation, in any matter of such grave importance as one that bears on the mutual relations between this country and any other, more especially between which and ourselves are so many causes in common, and so many mutual interests, as exist between England and the United States of America.”

Mr. DISRAELI was glad to hear that there was to be no diplomatic rupture with America; but he hoped the House of Commons would hold the Government responsible for the state of things which had ensued, instead of fixing the blame on an individual who had apparently acted on the instructions of his superiors, but who, it seemed, was to be made the scapegoat. He also wished that the House would inquire, before the close of the present question, what is the cause of those constant and painful misunderstandings between two countries whose relations should be those of the utmost cordiality. It would be wise of England to acknowledge that the United States has a policy like all the great nations of Europe, and that she has a right to that policy (*hear, hear*); and it would also be wise for this country not to look with such extreme jealousy on the least attempt at the expansion of her territory by the United States. Such a jealousy is unworthy of this country. If England is to show herself hostile to that system of expansion, it would adopt a policy which would not prevent

the spread of the United States; but which would involve the country in struggles of the most disastrous nature. He recollected, a few years ago, the extreme jealousy with which that House viewed the acquisition by the United States of California. It was looked on as a great accession to American power; and the most injurious results to this country were anticipated. "But," added Mr. Disraeli, "I ask whether, in any respect, the balance of power has been injured by the conquest of California? Or whether any event since the discovery of America has contributed more to the wealth, and therefore to the power of this country, than the conquest of California? I think also that it is possible for the United States to pursue her policy without injury to this country or to Europe, and that it is the business of statesmen to recognize the necessity of her increase of power, and at the same time to show her that she can best accomplish the destiny to which the noble lord the member for London has referred, by recognizing the principle of international policy which we have always upheld."

The subject then dropped.

PARLIAMENTARY LAND TITLES.

Previous to the foregoing debate, Colonel HIGGINS asked the Chief Secretary for Ireland, whether the attention of her Majesty's Government had been called to the recent decision of the Court of Queen's Bench in Ireland, in the case of "Errington v. Rorke," in which it was held that a purchaser under the Encumbered Estates Court is bound by a previous lease not mentioned in the conveyance to him from the commissioners; and whether it was the intention of Government to introduce any measure to set at rest the doubts created by that decision as to the indefeasibility of the title conferred by the commissioners.—Mr. HORSMAN said that nothing had been more generally believed than that the parliamentary title to lands sold under the Encumbered Estates Courts was unimpeachable, and immense sums had been invested on that understanding. The attention of the Government has been drawn to the recent decision in the Irish law courts, which was calculated to excite much apprehension and alarm; and they had immediately taken into consideration by what means this just and reasonable alarm could be obviated.

FORTIFICATIONS OF KARS.

In answer to Sir DE LACY EVANS, Lord PALMERSTON said that no authentic or official information had been received of the destruction of the fortifications of Kars, but it was generally reported that they had been blown up, as well as those of Ismail.

PURCHASE MONEY OF OFFICERS IN THE ARMY.

Mr. GROGAN moved an address to the Crown, that certain alterations be made in the rules of the military service and in the warrant of March, 1856, to the effect that the regulation value of the commissions of officers in the army who shall have died of cholera or fever in active service during the late war may be paid to their representatives, and deemed part of their personal estate, and to assure her Majesty that Parliament will make good the expense.—Sir DE LACY EVANS and Colonel DUNNE agreed with the objects of the motion.—Colonel NORRIS directed attention to the injustice inflicted upon old and distinguished officers by the retrospective action and practical working of the army warrant of the 6th of October, 1854.—Lord NAAS inquired "what course is to be taken with regard to the officers of the Land Transport Corps, and whether any man who has served as an officer of that regiment is to be sent back to serve as a non-commissioned officer in regiments of the line?"—Mr. PEEL defended existing arrangements, and mentioned that the conditions under which officers and men enter the Land Transport Corps will be adhered to.—After some further discussion, Lord PALMERSTON explained that his statements last year had been entirely misapprehended. He had over and over again said that the regulation would not apply to those who died of disease or other causes, since, in that case, it might extend to those who occupy foreign stations other than the Crimea, or who might die at home, or in times of peace. He agreed with some remarks that had been made by Lord HOTHAM, to the effect that the price of a commission is not paid to the public, but to the retiring officer; and not only do the public lose the services of a gallant man when a purchasing officer dies, but they have also to pay the pensions and allowances made to his family.—A division was then taken on Mr. GROGAN'S motion (to alter as to remove a technical objection to its being put), when it was negatived by 81 to 29.

SUPPLEMENTARY ARMY ESTIMATES.

The House went into committee on these estimates, the first of which created considerable laughter. It was a vote of 10% in addition to 7,000,000 already voted for land forces at home and abroad; but it appeared that the sum was merely proposed in order to give an opportunity for raising a discussion on the main vote. A discussion thereupon ensued; in the course of which, Colonel DUNNE objected to the extravagance of the original vote, to the expensiveness of the Foreign Legions, which hitherto had been of little use, and to the reduction of our military force.—Mr. DISRAELI thought there should have been an explanation of the diminution of the vote by fourteen millions.—Sir DE LACY EVANS agreed with this, and complained of disrespect to the House, and of the superior care taken of the Foreign

Legions in comparison with the native troops, especially the Germans. He believed there was a German influence in this country, which was interfering with more than one of the public departments.—Mr. FREDERICK PEEL, in explaining the items under which savings would be effected, mentioned that the intention, as regarded the infantry, is to make the peace establishment consist of eighty-three regiments of one thousand men each, to be divided into twelve companies, eight being for service, and four for depot. The reductions in the cavalry had not been completely resolved upon; and, as regarded the artillery, care would be taken to avoid reductions which had proved a source of weakness at the close of the last war.—After some further discussion, the vote was agreed to, as were two other supplementary votes of 10% each, on 1,000,000 for the embodied militia, and on 250,000 for the Army Works Corps.

The House then resumed, when the ANNUITIES REDEMPTION BILL and the TRANSFER OF WORKS (IRELAND) BILL, were respectively read a third time, and passed.

ST. JAMES'S PARK.

On the report of the Committee of Supply being brought up, the vote of 3500% for a suspension-bridge over the ornamental water in St. James's Park was opposed by Lord ELCHO, who objected that the beauty of the park should be sacrificed to public convenience; but, if that point was overruled, that the expenditure of public money should not be entrusted to the Board of Works for this purpose until the plan or design had been previously seen.—Sir JOSEPH PAXTON and Mr. TITE opposed the making of a bridge, and Mr. HENLEY suggested a ferry.—Sir BENJAMIN HALL said that he had proposed the bridge on account of representations made to him by inhabitants on both sides of the water. It would be of the lightest possible character consistent with safety.—Mr. DISRAELI advised a postponement of the question.—Lord PALMERSTON thought the proposed bridge would be both a convenience and a beauty.—Mr. BARROW and Mr. KER SEYMER having spoken against, and Sir JOHN SHELLEY and Sir THOMAS ACLAND in favour of, a bridge, the House divided, when the resolution of the committee was affirmed by 119 to 93.

The House adjourned at two o'clock.

Tuesday, June 17th.

IMPRISONMENT FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, the LORD CHANCELLOR, advertising to the subject of imprisonment for contempt of the Court of Chancery, mentioned that the Government is prepared to consider any well-digested measure for ameliorating the existing law.

Some routine business having been got through, their Lordships adjourned.

The HOUSE OF COMMONS held on this day the first of its morning sittings (irrespective of Wednesdays) in the present session.

PEACE PRESERVATION (IRELAND) BILL.

On the order for going into committee on this bill, Mr. MAHON moved to defer the committee for three months. After some discussion, this motion was negatived, and the House went into committee upon the bill, the clauses of which were agreed to, with amendments, one of which limited the duration of the bill to two years.

LUNATIC ASYLUMS (IRELAND) BILL.

Mr. HORSMAN, in moving the second reading of this bill, explained its object, which was to amend the acts relating to lunatic asylums in Ireland, to vest all the higher appointments therein in the Lord-Lieutenant, and the minor appointments in the governors. After a brief debate, the bill was read a second time.

The GRAND JURIES BILL was read a third time, and passed.

PENSIONS FOR TRANSPORT SERVICE.

In the evening, in answer to a question from Mr. STAFFORD, Sir CHARLES WOOD said he was not aware of any intention to grant pensions to the widows of officers of the Transport Service who have lost their lives in the performance of their duty.

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND.)

Mr. WALPOLE moved "that an humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying that her Majesty will be graciously pleased to direct that such modifications may be made in the rules of the national system of education in Ireland as will extend the advantages now enjoyed by non-vested schools to any other than vested schools now existing, or hereafter to be established, whatever their regulations may be as to the mode of religious instruction; provided that no children shall be compelled to learn any catechism, creed, or formula, to which any parent or guardian may object; and provided that the patrons shall be willing to place such schools in connexion with the board, to permit the board's control over books to be used in general instruction, and to receive officially the visits of the Government Inspectors." Reviewing the general subject, Mr. Walpole contended that a great injustice is done to the Protestant schools in depriving them of all aid, simply because the rule of reading and teaching the Bible in school hours is adhered to. Respect should of course be paid to the conscientious convictions of Roman Catholics; but the opinions of other sects should also be respected. The House had recently declared that education ought to be combined with religion; and this was the greater reason why the Protestant schools, which act on that principle, should be

supported by Government aid.—Sir WILLIAM HEATHCOTE seconded the motion, which was opposed by Mr. KENNEDY, on the ground that its effect would be to upset a system which is working well, and to revive religious discord in Ireland.—Mr. HORSMAN also resisted the motion for the same reasons. The National system of education had been embraced by nine-tenths of the population, and was rejected by only a part of the clergy and laity of the Established Church, who thereby excluded themselves from the grant. Since 1833, when the National system commenced, the number of its schools and pupils had increased yearly, numbering, in 1854, 5178 schools and 551,000 scholars, comprehending children of all denominations, who associate in harmony, as if they were all of one creed; and, although there are 20,000 teachers, there have been no religious squabbles, and it has not been alleged that there is a single case of proselytism. He contrasted the rules of the National Board with those of the Church Education Society with respect to religious instruction, and deduced from the falling off of the society's schools the conclusion that they are unpopular, because the society acts upon the false principle of endeavouring to make converts. The testimony of eminent public men, who had been opposed to the National system, had been given in commendation of its practical operation; and the emphatic declarations of Lord Derby, when in power, and of Lord Eglintoun, against such a change as that now sought to be made in the system, was sufficient argument against disturbing existing arrangements.

Mr. G. A. HAMILTON and Mr. NAPIER supported the motion as an act of justice to Protestants; Mr. HUGHES, Mr. DEASE, and Sir JAMES FITZGERALD, opposed it.—On the House dividing, Mr. Walpole's motion was carried by 113 to 103, showing a majority of ten against the Government.

The other orders having been disposed of, the House adjourned.

Wednesday, June 18th.

THE NAWAB OF SURAT.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, at the time of private business, the debate upon the consideration of the report on the Nawab of Surat Treaty Bill, adjourned from Wednesday week, was resumed.—Sir FITZBOY KELLY moved that the bill be read a third time.—Mr. VERNON SMITH, after objecting to the question being brought before the House in the form of a private bill, proposed, on behalf of the Indian Government, that, on condition that the bill was withdrawn, the whole pension of a lac and a half of rupees (or 15,000%) a year should be paid to the descendants of the Nawab for the lives of the parties.—Mr. CARDWELL, chairman of the committee, advised that the pension should be regarded as hereditary, but that it should be placed in the hands of the trustees, to be paid to the *bona fide* claimants.—Ultimately the bill was ordered to be read a third time.

MR. BAILLIE'S MOTION ON THE AMERICAN QUESTION.

Mr. BAILLIE gave notice that he should withdraw his motion (which stood for Thursday evening) on the American enlistment question.—Mr. G. H. MOORE said that in that case he should take the sense of the House on the question at the earliest opportunity.

The House then went into committee upon the DWELLINGS FOR LABOURING CLASSES (IRELAND) BILL, the clauses of which were discussed and agreed to.

The debate on the second reading of the POOR LAW (IRELAND) BILL was adjourned.

THE VOTE ON MR. WALPOLE'S MOTION.

Mr. FORTESCUE brought under notice the serious danger which threatened the integrity of the Irish education scheme, in consequence of the vote of Tuesday evening. He could not regard that vote as the deliberate opinion of the House. It had arisen from "accident." A further opportunity ought to be given for ascertaining the real opinion of the House; and he therefore intended to propose a resolution pledging the House to support the National system of education in Ireland as it now stands. He begged to ask the Prime Minister if he would name a day for the discussion?—Lord PALMERSTON concurred in the opinion that the hostile vote of Tuesday did not express the opinion of the House. The importance of the question rendered it undesirable that delay should take place in affording the House a renewed opportunity of recording its conviction, and he should therefore name Monday for the discussion of the question to be submitted by Mr. Fortescue.

Thursday, June 19th.

OATH OF ABJURATION.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, the Earl of DERRY said that, in the event of the Oath of Abjuration Bill being thrown out, he would ask their Lordships to consent to the second reading of a bill which he now laid on the table, repealing all that portion of the oath relating to the descendants of the Pretender.

The FACTORY BILL was read a second time, on the motion of the Earl of DERRY.

THE SARDINIAN LOAN.

The royal message respecting the advance of another million sterling on the loan to the King of Sardinia was considered, and a resolution founded thereon agreed to, on the motion of the Earl of CLARENDON.

SIR W. E. WILLIAMS'S ANNUITY BILL.

On the motion that this bill be read a third time, the Earl of MALMESBURY passed a high eulogy on the late

AMERICA.

THE DISMISSAL OF MR. CRAMPTON.

A DESPATCH from Secretary Marcy to Mr. Dallas, informing him of the dismissal of Mr. Crampton, was laid before Congress on the 29th ult. It is dated May 27, and commences by stating that the President "has been much gratified by the conciliatory spirit of the note [addressed to Mr. Dallas on the 30th of April, by the Earl of Clarendon], and by the desire manifested by the Earl of Clarendon to adjust the existing difficulties, and preserve and strengthen the friendly relations between the United States and Great Britain. . . . The unequivocal disclaimer by her Majesty's Government of any intention either to infringe the law or disregard the policy, or not respect the sovereign rights of the United States, and their expressions of regret—if, contrary to their intentions, and to their reiterated directions, there has been any infringement of the laws of the United States—are satisfactory to the President. The ground of complaint, so far as respects her Majesty's Government, is thus removed." The President, however, still feels compelled to adhere to his original opinion, that the Federal laws have been violated by Mr. Crampton, and by Messrs. Matthews, Barclay, and Rowcroft, the British consuls at Philadelphia, New York, and Cincinnati. These gentlemen are, therefore, informed that the United States Government cannot continue to have any diplomatic or official intercourse with them. But the President is gratified to perceive that her Majesty's Government would not have hesitated to comply with the request to withdraw these officers from their official position if it had entertained the views here taken of their conduct in regard to recruiting, contrary to the laws and sovereign rights of the United States. I need scarcely say that in making this request no interruption of the diplomatic relations between this Government and that of Great Britain was anticipated, but on the contrary, the President was and is sincerely desirous to keep them upon a most friendly footing." Mr. Marcy further observes, that "the only embarrassment which attends the case is, the difference of opinion between the two Governments as to the complicity of those officers [Mr. Crampton and the consuls] in illegal proceedings within the United States. . . . The difference of opinion may in some degree be ascribed to the difference in views of the two Governments, in respect to the neutrality law and sovereign rights of the Union. "It is not proposed, however," says Mr. Marcy, "to continue the discussion upon that subject." But he afterwards adds that he trusts it will not be questioned that it lies only with the judicial tribunals of the United States to interpret the municipal laws, and "to determine what acts are an infringement of those laws. This," continues Mr. Marcy, "is a matter which concerns the internal administration [of the United States Government]; and it cannot allow the agents of any foreign power to controvert that construction, and justify their conduct by a different interpretation of our laws, which virtually renders them ineffective for the purposes intended." Mr. Marcy denies that the explanation of the officers implicated at all exonerates them from the charges advanced by the United States Government. Their denial, "does not traverse all the allegations against them," and the impeachment of the testimony of Strobel and Hertz, by which they were implicated, is of no avail, since, whatever might be the character of those witnesses, their depositions were supported by those of several other witnesses, and it is the custom, in Great Britain, as well as in America, to receive at times the evidence of accomplices. "The competency of such persons in a given case, and their credibility, are in both countries questions upon which the court and jury in their respective spheres of jurisdiction" decide. The statements of Strobel and Hertz were not only established by those of other persons, but, as Mr. Marcy asserts, by original letters and undeniable acts of Mr. Crampton himself. "As to Strobel and Hertz, however, it may be observed, the documents transmitted by Lord Clarendon as proving those persons unworthy of credit, are entitled to but little weight, consisting as they do chiefly of *ex parte* affidavits, detailing matters mostly of hearsay. They were agents selected and trusted by Mr. Crampton himself, and to them he committed most important concerns. Nor does it seem to be a thing of much moment in relation to the present question, that Strobel, in consequence of imputed misconduct, was dismissed from emolument by the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, and afterwards endeavoured to obtain money from Mr. Crampton. The fact remains that he held a commission in the British Foreign Legion, and that, as it is clearly proved, and not denied, he maintained, as recruiting officer, and for a considerable period of time, association, personally or by correspondence, with Mr. Crampton. The employment of Strobel by Mr. Crampton, their long association in the joint work of recruiting in the United States for the Foreign Legion, and the distinction of her Majesty's commission of captain in the corps conferred on Strobel, would seem, at least, to deprive Mr. Crampton of the right to deny his credibility as a witness."

Mr. Marcy then proceeds to charge Mr. Crampton with having, after the judicial decision in May, 1866, declaring that the recruitments were unlawful—continued to enlist, or cause to be enlisted, men for the

English army from among the population of the United States. This course was persisted in through the months of May, June, July, and August. "The Earl of Clarendon, in behalf of her Majesty's Government, disclaims all intention to violate the laws, compromise the neutrality, or disrespect the sovereignty, of the United States by the enlistment of troops within their territory. The President unreservedly accepts and is fully satisfied with this disclaimer. Of course the unlawful acts in question were not authorized by the British Government, but the fact is nevertheless well established that they were done, and done in the name, and at the expense, of the British Government. Who, then, is responsible for these acts? . . . In the documents on the subject recently laid before Parliament, it is distinctly stated that the enlistments in the United States did not stop until Mr. Crampton gave orders for their cessation on the 5th of August. He had the power to stop the acts of enlistment. He knew the proceedings were from the commencement exceedingly offensive to this Government, and that it was devoting its active energies to arrest them. He was bound to know—he could not but know what was notorious to all the world—that, through the months of April, May, June, and July, the recruiting agents in various parts of the United States, and conspicuously in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Cincinnati, were keeping up a most unseemly contest with the law officers of the United States. . . . For thus giving countenance to these illegal proceedings he is distinctly responsible. But his accountability extends yet further; for the same documents show that the official suggestion to the British Government of the untoward scheme of obtaining recruits in the United States came from the correspondence of Mr. Crampton, and of the consuls at New York, Philadelphia, and Cincinnati, and that to Mr. Crampton was the superintendence and execution of the scheme committed; and thus it is that he who directed, had power to stop the proceedings."

It does not suffice for Mr. Crampton now to say that he did not intend to commit or participate in the commission of any infringement of the laws of the United States. He was the directing head of the long-continued infringements of the law. Mr. Marcy thinks "it is not the least of the causes of complaint against Mr. Crampton that, by his acts of commission in this business, he was recklessly endangering the harmony and peace of two great nations which, by the character of their commercial relations, and by other considerations, have the strongest possible inducements to cultivate reciprocal amity." The document further states:—"The consulate at New York appears to have been the point at which the largest expenditures were made, and it is proved by documents herewith transmitted, that payments at that consular office to some of the recruiting agents continued to be made by the secretary of the consul, in the consul's presence, from time to time down to the beginning of January of the present year."

A personal matter between Mr. Crampton and Mr. Marcy is thus explained by the latter:—"I repeat now, with entire consciousness of its accuracy, what I stated in my letter of the 28th of December last, that at the interview on the 22nd of March, the only one I ever had with Mr. Crampton, as he admits, in which the recruitment business was alluded to, he [Mr. Crampton] had satisfied me that his Government had no connexion with it, and was in no way responsible for what was doing in the United States to raise recruits for the British army. But I am quite certain that on no occasion has he intimated to me that the British Government, or any of its officers, was or had been in any way concerned in sending agents into the United States to recruit therein, or to use any inducements for that purpose. Nor did he ever notify me that he was taking, or intended to take, any part in furthering such proceedings. Such a communication, timely made, would probably have arrested the mischief at its commencement." In further answer to Mr. Crampton's assertion that he really did make this communication to Mr. Marcy, the American Secretary remarks:—"In the defence of his conduct, recently sent by him [Mr. Crampton] to his Government, he makes admissions inconsistent with the allegation that there was no concealment on his part, and that the recruiting arrangements were communicated to me. He says:—"It is perfectly true that I did not enter into any details of means which were to be adopted by her Majesty's Government to render available the services of those who tendered them to us in such numbers. There seemed to be obvious reasons for abstaining from this; and, even if it had occurred to me, I should have been unwilling to do anything which might have borne the appearance of engaging Mr. Marcy in any expression of favour or approbation of a plan favouring the interests of one of the parties in the present war. All I could desire, on his part, was neutrality and impartiality." His reasons for withholding from me the details of the enlistment system—the most important part of it for this Government—are not satisfactory. If Mr. Crampton believed that what he was doing or intended to do in the way of recruiting was right, he could have had no reluctance to communicate it to me, for his instructions required him to make that disclosure."

The document concludes with reiterated regrets that it has been found necessary to resort to the step now taken.

The letter of dismissal, addressed to Mr. Crampton contains the annexed paragraphs in addition to the in-

Major Thompson, and adverted to the straitened condition of his mother's circumstances. The Marquis of Lonsdowne said that he was not aware of the circumstances of the lady, whose misfortunes every one must lament, and in which he was sure their Lordships felt a lively sympathy. He would make those circumstances known in the proper quarter. The bill was then read a third time, and passed.

THE LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

The Earl of Malmesbury made some complaints against the London and South-Western Railway Company, which he said had engaged to construct a double line of rails when their receipts should have reached a certain amount. There had been some confusion in the accounts; but he had reason to believe that the amount stipulated for had been reached, and yet the double line had not been laid down. This, however, was not the first time the company had broken faith.—Lord STANLEY OF ALDERLEY said there had been certain deductions, which reduced the gross amount of the receipts to a sum below that mentioned by the Earl of Malmesbury. The company considered that they could not be compelled to make the double line, but they intended voluntarily to lay down twenty miles of it; and he was of opinion that they should not be interfered with.

Several bills having been forwarded a stage, the House adjourned till Monday.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, at the morning sitting, on the order for going into committee upon the Registration of Voters (Scotland) Bill, Mr. GEORGE DUNDAS complained that there had been no discussion of the principle of the bill, to which he urged objections, and moved to defer the committee for six months.—The LORD ADVOCATE observed that these objections might be considered in the committee, and declined entering into them at that stage.—After some further discussion, the amendment, upon a division, was negatived by 102 to 49, and the House went into committee upon the bill, the clauses of which were agreed to.

THE STAFF OF THE ARMY.

On the question that the House go into committee of supply, Captain VERNON moved, "That it is the opinion of this House that it will be to the advantage of the service to employ general officers from the scientific corps on the staff of the army."—Mr. FREDERICK PEARCE concurred in the opinion thus expressed; but doubted the propriety of fettering the Government by a resolution of the House as to the class of officers that should be employed. In future, in the selection of officers, the only question would be—who is the fittest for the service to be performed?—The resolution was negatived without a division.

SUPPLY.

The remaining votes for the military and ordnance services were then brought forward and agreed to, after some discussion.—In bringing forward the ordnance estimates, Mr. MONSELL briefly explained the nature and extent of the reductions which had been effected since the conclusion of peace, upon the charges for clothing, provisions, forage, and other branches of the department. The result showed a saving of about half a million on those items of expenditure.—On the vote for the scientific branch, a debate took place respecting the survey of Scotland. Many objections were urged against the proposed scale (25 inches to the mile), and Mr. ELLIOT moved that the amount of the vote should be reduced by 8000*l*. This amendment was carried to a division, but negatived by a majority of 160 to 69. The vote was then agreed to.

COALWHIPPERS (PORT OF LONDON) BILL.

On the motion for the second reading of this bill, Mr. LOWE moved that the order be discharged, on account of his having received assurances from the coal-owners and ship-owners of the north of England to the effect that they would make arrangements for rendering the continuance of the former measure unnecessary.—Mr. GARDINER moved that the second reading be deferred for a fortnight; and this was ultimately agreed to.

IRELAND.

TIPPERARY BANK.—The appeal case of Mr. Vincent Scully against the decision of the Master in Chancery holding him responsible for the payment of certain shares in the Tipperary Bank, which was argued on Saturday in the Rolls Court, was decided on Monday. Judgment was given against Mr. Scully. The injunction proceeding, *O'Flaherty v. M'Dowell* was ordered to stand over. In the appeal case of Mr. Wilson Kennedy the manager of one of the branches of the Tipperary Bank, the Master's order was affirmed. The Master in Chancery ordered the payment of 2*s*. in the pound to the creditors of the bank whose claims are admitted. The order was made on the affidavit of the official manager, stating that he had admitted claims of creditors to the amount of 240,879*l* 1*s* 6*d*., and that other claims required investigation, which they were undergoing. He also stated that for the purpose of the dividend he had paid *pro rata* above 25,000*l*. The Master ordered an account to be taken of the sum required. **HARVEST.**—An abundant harvest is anticipated. One or two of the southern papers speak of the old blight in the potato crop, but the symptoms as yet are but slight.

nation of the fact:—"I avail myself of this occasion to add that due attention will be cheerfully given to any communications addressed to this department in her Majesty's Government affecting the relations between Great Britain and the United States, which may be forwarded to this Government through any other channel. Should it be your pleasure to retire from the United States, the President directs me to furnish you with the usual facilities for that purpose. I consequently close herewith the passports in such cases. I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, sir, the assurance of my respectful consideration." The letter is signed by Mr. Marcy.

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN QUESTION.

A second letter from Mr. Secretary Marcy to Mr. Clarendon has reference to the matters in dispute consequent upon the different interpretations put by the English and American Governments upon the Bulwer-Clayton Treaty in respect to the non-occupation of Central America. Mr. Clarendon, in his letter, is utterly though courteously repudiating the construction put forward by the Earl of Clarendon—namely, that the engagement on the part of Great Britain not to occupy territory in Central America was only prospective—Mr. Marcy alludes to the informal statement by Lord Clarendon to Mr. Buchanan that Great Britain was disposed to refer the matter to arbitration. Mr. Marcy also glances at the omission of Mr. Crampton to convey a similar intimation from the English Foreign Minister to the American Government until upwards of three months after he had received the despatch containing the proposal. The President regrets that the suggestion was not made in a definite shape at an earlier stage, but now inquires—"What is it which shall be submitted to arbitration?" The United States Government does not agree with Lord Clarendon in thinking that the difference between the two countries merely has reference to the interpretation of the Convention of April 19th, 1850. If the matter were referred to arbitration, and the result were favourable to the United States, "then, and such determination would conclude all existing differences. But, on the other hand, it is not easy to see how the adverse construction, if it were adopted by another Government, could terminate the difference." In contradiction to what Lord Clarendon "assumes, without actually asserting," the United States Government does not understand that, at the date of the Treaty, Great Britain had any possessions or occupied any territory in Central America. If she had any right of possession, "it must have consisted either in her relation to the Mosquito Indians, to Belize, or to the Bay Islands." Mr. Marcy then examines these implied claims:

Firstly,—As to the Mosquito Coast, it is not understood that Great Britain now lays claim to any possession or any territory there; all she is supposed to claim is a right to protect the Mosquito Indians. It cannot be alleged by her that those Indians constitute, or are competent to constitute, an independent State, admissible as such into the family of sovereign powers. It is true that Great Britain took possession of San Juan, and allied the authorities of the State of Nicaragua; but she has declared herself "ready and desirous to be relieved of the duty" of protecting the Indians "in any manner which shall honourably assure their future contentment." No difficulty, therefore, is anticipated on that point.

Secondly,—As to Belize, it being conceded that in the course of explanations interchanged between Sir R. Bulwer and Mr. Clayton, Great Britain is not precluded, by any stipulation with the United States, from insisting to exercise at that establishment all the rights which she acquired from Spain, it would seem also that there is nothing in that part of the subject which it would become the two Governments to say to the world cannot settle by themselves; for, although it is not in English books of geography and others to call Belize the appellation of British Honduras, still it is well known to admit of dispute that Belize is not, never was, any part of Honduras.

As to the question of the Bay Islands, "there is more controversy, at least in appearance. It is due to perfect frankness to say that the act of her Majesty's Government, establishing, so late as the year 1852 (and in direct contradiction to the express letter of the Convention of 1850), a colony at Bay Islands, has left a disagreeable impression on the minds of the Government people of the United States. Possessing, as Great Britain does, numerous colonial establishments in all parts of the world, many of them in the West Indies, it has not been readily seen what inducements of interest she could have had to establish a new colony under the peculiar circumstances of the time in the insignificant territory of the Bay Islands. . . . Occasional acts of military

authority by the Superintendant of Belize, are insufficient, obviously, to determine the claim of the title as against the counter claims of the Republic of Central America or of Honduras. No relinquishment of title by Great Britain is alleged, except in certain declarations reported to have been made by the Central American Commandant of Truxillo, who, whatever he may have said, could have no power to cede away the territory of Honduras."

Of Ruatan, we are told that the English Government claims its right to occupy it on the ground that it "has been, without any instigation on the part of her Majesty's Government, spontaneously occupied by British subjects." But, contends Mr. Marcy, "this is a mere act of invasion by unauthorized private persons," and "it cannot have escaped the attention of her Majesty's Government that the political condition of Belize, as fixed by the Treaty, is not in itself one of territorial sovereignty."

Reviewing all the circumstances of the question, Mr. Marcy observes that if the right of Great Britain to colonize Central America could be established, "while the United States are restrained from all such rights of control and acquisition, that, in the estimation of the President, would be to deprive the Treaty of moral force, both because it would thus cease to have reciprocal effect, and because the United States did not intentionally enter into any such engagement. If such were a possible construction, [it would remain to consider] whether it would not then become the duty of the United States to seek for the most honourable means of being discharged from such obligations, and render themselves perfectly free to re-establish their proper relation as an American power to the transit routes of the American isthmus and the general independence of America." The President, however, is not unwilling to refer some of the disputed questions to arbitration. "Of this class of objects of inquiry is the question, what are the rightful limits of establishment at Belize on the side of the State of Honduras, the question whether the Bay Islands do or do not belong to that Republic, and the question as to what extent of country is embraced in the term 'Mosquito Coast,' or is in actual occupancy of Mosquito Indians, as Indians, and with such territorial rights only as that description of persons are entitled to claim according to the established public law of Great Britain, of the United States, or of the independent States which have succeeded Spain in America, remembering no power exists on the part of Great Britain and the United States to dispose of the sovereign rights of Nicaragua or of any other State of Central America." But the President "would greatly prefer that, in a controversy like the present, turning on points of political geography, the matter should be referred to some one or more of those eminent men of science who do honour to the intellect of Europe and America, and who, with the previous consent of their respective governments, might well undertake the task of determining such questions to the acceptance as well of her Majesty's Government as that of the United States." Mr. Dallas is therefore directed to ascertain if direct negotiation be not possible, and, if not, "to discuss the conditions of arbitration upon those points of difference as to which alone this method of settlement seems requisite or applicable; it being assured that other points of difference would, after that, yield, as a matter of course, to conference between the Earl of Clarendon and yourself, conducted in the spirit of cordiality and frankness which belongs to your personal relations, and which is dictated by the true interests both of the United States and Great Britain."

In the course of the debate in the Senate on the first of these two despatches, Mr. Toombs, the Senator from Georgia, contended that England had not in any degree violated the laws of the United States. Senator Pratt entertained the same opinion; but the feeling was for the most part the other way. The *New York Tribune* censures Mr. Marcy for having withheld all notification of the dismissal from the dismissed until after the Asia was safe beyond Sandy Hook, and out of reach of the telegraph; and even then Mr. Crampton was not informed that the Consuls had also been dismissed, but was left to learn that important fact from the newspapers the next morning. The *New York Times* says that a disgraceful attempt was made on the Saturday night previous to Mr. Crampton's departure to insult him by setting up a serenade of tin kettles and implements of that class in derision beneath the windows of the English Consul's private residence. It was frustrated, however, by the active vigilance of the police. This is denied by another journal, which says the only serenade was by a band, which played "God save the Queen" on the previous night. A strange story is told by the *New York Herald*, which states:—"It ought to be known that some days ago, when the dismissal of Mr. Crampton was under consideration in the Cabinet, the President sought an interview with him, and proposed an amicable suspension of the relations between himself and the Secretary of State. This Mr. Crampton promptly declined; indeed its absurdity would seem to be sufficient to discredit the proposition. After this, not contented with his position, the President sounded Mr. Crampton upon the question of closing the embassy, which was thought to be a point of vitality in the relations of the two countries. Mr. Crampton was equally non-committed upon this point."

It is stated that Mr. Crampton has all along acted under the advice of the French Minister.

Mr. Brooks, the member of the House of Representatives who attacked Senator Sumner, has addressed to the President of the Senate a letter of apology, disclaiming any intention of committing a breach of the privileges of the Upper House, but defending his assault on Mr. Sumner, who, according to his (Mr. Brooks's) account, had in-

sulted him. "I had reason," he states, "to believe the senator from Massachusetts did not acknowledge that personal responsibility for wrongs in personal deportment, which would have saved me the painful necessity of the collision which I sought; and, in my judgment, therefore, I had no alternative but to act as I did." The Senate having complained of Mr. Brooks's conduct to the House of Representatives, a committee of the latter body has decided on the expulsion of the offender.

The Democratic National Convention at Cincinnati has had a very stormy gathering, at which there was some fighting and considerable violence. It was ultimately decided, however, to nominate Mr. Buchanan for the Presidency.

Eight pro-slavery men have been killed by the Abolitionists on Potawatamie Creek, in Kansas. The Costa Rican army (according to American accounts) has evacuated Nicaragua owing to the prevalence of sickness, and Walker has entered Virgin Bay. It is said there was no British blockade, Captain Tarleton, of the British frigate *Eurydice*, not having instructions to interpose any interruption to the landing of passengers or munitions of war. The Presidential election in Nicaragua has been conducted in an orderly and peaceable manner, and terminated in the return of Patricio Rivas, the Provisional President. The French ship of war *Penelope* has left for San Juan, and a commissioner has been despatched to confer with the Costa Ricans. An agent has been sent to Spain in order to submit to the home Government the necessity of immediate action against General Walker as a means of preserving Cuba to the Queen.

An insurrection is reported to have broken out at Hayti against the Emperor Soulouque. Killio, in the Sandwich Islands, is no longer threatened with the flow of lava. The King is about to be married to an Englishwoman named Rook.

In the New York money market, the supply of money considerably exceeds the demand.

There has nearly been a rupture between America and France. "Count de Sartiges," says the *New York Journal of Commerce*, "received through the post-office a letter from a Washington correspondent, treating of the settled antipathy of foreign Governments towards the United States, as now manifested by the conduct of foreign representatives in their intercourse with society and our public men. This letter was superinduced by alleged indecent and insulting language against our Government, and especially against the Secretary of State, at a dinner recently given by Count de Sartiges. The envelope enclosing the letter in question bore the seal of the State Department." The Count indignantly complained to Mr. Marcy, who disavowed all knowledge of the authorship; and subsequently the author, who was a Government employé, but who had not sent the letter to the Count, resigned his post.

THE BANKRUPTCY OF MARK BOYD.

The adjourned certificate meeting in the affairs of Mark Boyd was held on Monday, when Mr. Lawrance, addressing the Court on behalf of the bankrupt, said that "for thirty years he had conducted his affairs with mercantile integrity, and during that period no one had impugned his conduct. He had exercised no inconsiderable influence, and was held in universal respect and esteem. As a stockbroker, he had not dealt in a single time bargain, and during the memorable years of speculation no man had stood higher. His brother Benjamin and himself had started the Union Bank. They had also succeeded in establishing the North British Insurance Company. These were flourishing concerns. Benjamin Boyd and his brother, assisted by Mr. Sutherland, Mr. Connell, and other gentlemen of equal position, had promoted the formation of the Royal Bank of Australia. Benjamin Boyd was a man of extraordinary energy, and was there anything surprising that success should be anticipated from borrowing money in this country on the company's debentures at five per cent., and lending it in Australia at ten per cent. ?—that being the usual rate of interest in the colony. The capital of the bank was large, and there was every prospect of success. There was no scheme on its part to get money from the railway. On the contrary, the Scotch banks were its largest lenders. The unfortunate failure of the Australian Bank was the cause of the bankrupt's misfortunes. The personal debts of the bankrupt, apart from his liabilities to the bank for calls upon his share, were only a few pounds, and the debts of B. and M. Boyd, were not large. The perverse ingenuity of counsel had suggested that the bankrupt had been guilty of an offence against the statute by his representations to Mr. Borthwick. Those representations were made in 1849, and the act only referred to representations made from and subsequent to the month of April, 1850. The learned counsel had thus proved himself ignorant of an act which he professed to expound. But no reasonable man would say that Mr. Borthwick had been deceived at all by the representations of the bankrupt. Why had he not been put in the box if they thought this charge could be substantiated?" In conclusion, Mr. Lawrance contended that there never was a case in which a man was more deserving of the certificate for which he then applied.

The Commissioner deferred judgment.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

EXECUTION OF WILLIAM PALMER.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

Stafford, June 14, 1856.

BEFORE resuming the thread of my narrative it is necessary to correct two inaccuracies that crept into my former letter from this place. It was said that Palmer's little child was at present living with his grandmother, "under the moral surveillance of the noted Jeremiah." It is satisfactory to learn that all connexion has been broken off between that graceless individual and the Palmer family. Equally incorrect was the statement that the prisoner's two brothers took their final leave of him on Thursday morning. And it may be most conveniently mentioned in this place that, although only four reporters were admitted within the gaol, the representatives of the press are indebted to Mr. Hatton, the chief constable of the county, for an excellent position within the inner barriers, immediately round the drop: and there were at least forty of these gentlemen to be provided for. Throughout the whole of yesterday the town of Stafford wore the aspect of a great festival holiday. With every train—and they were incessant—a long line of visitors poured into the streets. All night long the clatter of heavy shoes was heard on the ever-pointed swan's-egg pebbles that stand proxy for pavement. Some came in carriages and carts, very many by rail, but still more on foot. The rain, indeed, continued to fall, and the surcharged drops falling from the eaves kept up their monotonous patter. The water stood in little pools, while overhead the clouds seemed as if they were utterly inexhaustible. From Derby, and Manchester, and Liverpool, from Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Tamworth, from Chester, Shrewsbury, and Worcester, hundreds upon hundreds were ever arriving. But the Potteries and "the black country" poured forth their thousands, for at most of the neighbouring works the operatives had claimed a holiday. Comparatively few persons retired to rest that night, and even these were too excited to sleep. The majority wiled away the hours as best they could, listening to the discord of wandering minstrels, rattling the dice-box, or indulging in potations deep. So early as two in the morning the more determined sight-seers took up their posts, and bravely stood out "the pelting of the pitiless rain" through six long weary hours. Very haggard and wan was their appearance, especially of those who came from the Potteries. Thin, stunted, emaciated creatures, with cavernous cheeks, hungry jaws, and vacant expression of the eye. Nor is the shoemaking population of Stafford more stalwart or prepossessing. But never did a more orderly crowd assemble to witness the extreme penalty of the law. Scarcely any women disgraced themselves by being present, excepting a few respectably dressed females on the scaffolds erected at every point which commanded a view of the horrid spectacle. Young children were also prevented, as far as possible, from mingling with the throng, and thus not a single accident occurred worthy of remark. It must be admitted, however, that the unpropitious weather did good service in repelling the less adventurous, but even so there could not have been fewer than 25,000 persons—more than double the entire population of the town—collected within a very confined space. About six o'clock the rain came down unmercifully. Umbrellas were opened in all directions, but only for a few minutes, as from every point a waterspout descended on somebody's neck, shoulder, or shift front. As the fatal hour approached, the clouds partially dispersed, while a white steam rose upwards from the well-drenched mob. Perhaps there might be exhibited something too much of levity, a too great readiness for vacant laughter, and occasionally a disposition for profane jesting. But there was certainly no excitement, no thirst for blood, no violent animosity towards the criminal. The general feeling seemed rather to be an idle curiosity to behold the features of a man who had made himself so notorious, and to observe his bearing at the last awful moment. The justice of his sentence was fully admitted, and most people were evidently disposed to endorse Captain Cap's opinion of circumstantial evidence. "Ay, ay!" said that dogmatic old saltwater, "circumstances are the things after all. One circumstance is worth fifty facts. That I know to be the law of the realm. Many a man has been hanged on circumstances." No where were any attempts made to insinuate doubts of the wretched man's guilt. Placards, indeed, there were thousands, but these were of a religious tendency, and invited their readers to prepare to meet their God. The air-grocers followed on the same scent, and the surrounding chapels were filled with worshippers eager for a sermon. The children of Momus, or of Mammon, have not been less earnest in their way. The theatre has been crowded all the week, and discriminating audiences of all ranks of persons—including the gallery—have witnessed at the uncertainty of circumstantial evidence as shown in "Othello's" condemnation of his letter-writer, or have gloried in the crimes of Robert Macdonald and of the "Blacksmith Men." To-night, apparently as a compliment to the Jeremiah Smith, will be represented "The Idle Whisker," "Hole of Blood,"

While the world wagged on thus merrily without those prison walls, what was the demeanour of the prisoner within his narrow cell?

Previous to his trial, Palmer was a very regular attendant at chapel, and by his serious deportment made rather a favourable impression on the chaplain. This was nothing new, however, with him. At all times he had been careful to render lip-service to his Creator, and seldom had he missed an opportunity of taking the Sacrament. He kept, as it were, an account-current with the registering angel. As a set-off against a forgery he took notes of the sermon: did he commit murder to-day, *per contra* he partook of the Lords' Supper on the morrow. But after his return from Newgate he renounced this transparent hypocrisy, and only twice could be persuaded to attend divine service in the chapel. The Rev. Mr. Goodacre officiated as usual, in the morning founding his discourse on the parable of the lost sheep, and in the evening dilating on the text, "Let no man deceive himself." His eloquence and zeal were thrown away. The prisoner only hardened his heart, and turned a deaf ear alike to his warnings and entreaties. Nor did this arise from any dislike to the worthy chaplain's High Church predilections, though these were sufficiently strong to cause a refusal of the holy Sacrament to the unshriven sinner. He had not confessed his crime unto man—man therefore withheld from him the hope of God's mercy. But the Low Church made no greater progress than the High. And even Mr. Wright, the amateur philanthropist, was as much at fault as the regular divines. It was only on Tuesday that Palmer showed any symptoms of contrition, and even then the feeling was rather one of regret at having failed and being discovered, than of sorrow for having transgressed the laws of his Creator. On the last morning, indeed, he asked the Rev. Mr. Sneyd if a sinner could be saved who confessed to God, but preserved silence towards men. The reverend gentleman declined to give a positive answer, lest he should be thought to encroach upon the divine prerogative of mercy. But after further self-deliberation he returned to the prisoner's cell, and said to him, "You have asked me a difficult and abstract question. Your Bible tells you that all liars shall have their part in the lake of fire and brimstone. If you persist in proclaiming your innocence when you know that you are guilty, you will die with a lie in your mouth, and you know the consequences." The tears stood for a moment in Palmer's eyes, but he quickly recovered himself, and made no further remark. On the preceding night, when his solicitor, Mr. John Smith, of Birmingham, was bidding him a last farewell, the wretched man presented him with a little volume, entitled "The Sinner's Friend." The fly-leaf bears the inscription in his usual firm, clear handwriting, "The gift of William Palmer, June 13th, 1856." By way of prelude are two lines, rather remarkable for the piety of their sentiment than for the harmony of their rhythm:

Oh! where for refuge should I flee,
If Jesus had not died for me!

Mr. Smith had come down purposely from London, in compliance with an urgent telegraphic request from Palmer. It was past ten o'clock before he reached the gaol, where the prisoner's brothers, George and Thomas, and his only surviving sister, were anxiously awaiting him. They had just taken leave of the criminal, who retained his composure throughout that trying interview. What passed between Mr. Smith and his client has been differently narrated. That gentleman says, Palmer used nearly these words: "I am innocent of poisoning Cooke by strychnine. All that I have to ask is, that you will have Cooke's body exhumed, and see to my mother and child." It is observable that he does not profess to be innocent, except with reference to the use of strychnine. As for his mother and child, the former can take very good care of herself, especially now that he himself is prevented from causing her further annoyance; and the child has relatives quite as affectionate as the most zealous attorney. The governor, Major Fulford, tells the tale with some variations. On entering the cell, whither his duty compelled him to accompany Mr. Smith, the governor assured Palmer that anything he might say on family matters would be kept strictly secret. The other declined the confidence, and hoped that his words would be published to all the world. All that he wished to do was to express his gratitude to the chaplain and the officers of the prison for their uniform kindness to him, and to protest his innocence of having caused Cooke's death by strychnine.

"I trust," said the Governor, "that in the awful position in which you are placed, you are not quibbling. The question is, 'Ay' or 'No,' did you murder Cooke?"

"Lord Campbell," replied the prisoner, "summed up for poisoning by strychnine."

"Are you guilty of the murder?" reiterated the Major. "It is of very little importance how the deed was done."

"I have nothing more to add," answered the other. "I am quite easy in my conscience and happy in my mind."

Mr. Smith and the prisoner had then some conversation concerning family matters of no public interest. Half an hour afterwards, the former gentleman took his

departure, with every demonstration of mental anguish. Palmer then drank a little brandy and water, and about midnight sank into a refreshing sleep. At half-past two he was awakened by the chaplain, who remained by his bedside in prayer until five o'clock, when a turnkey entered with a cup of tea and asked the prisoner "how he felt." "I am quite comfortable," was the careless reply. About half-past six, Mr. Goodacre resumed his devotional exercises, in which Palmer mechanically joined. Occasionally tears came into his eyes, but hastily brushing them away, he instantly mastered the rising emotion. In reply to the reverend gentleman's urgent entreaties that he should confess his guilt, the prisoner only repeated his ambiguous asseveration that "Cooke did not die of strychnine."

At twenty minutes to eight a tall, grey-haired, respectable-looking man, in a long white carter's frock, appeared at the door of the cell. This was the executioner, Smith, of Dudley, originally a nailer, and now a higgler by trade, and for sixteen years *maitre des hautes ceuvres* for the county of Stafford. Even this ungracious apparition was received by Palmer with characteristic civility. While his arms were being pinioned, he merely uttered a request that the cord might not be drawn too tightly. This operation over, the high sheriff, Lieut. Colonel Dyott, entered the cell, accompanied by the chaplain, and asked if he had anything to say—if he did not acknowledge the justice of his sentence? "No!" exclaimed the prisoner, with unwonted animation; "there are certain persons, whose names I will not mention, who are guilty of my murder. I am a murdered man. I will never acknowledge the justice of my sentence." When these gentlemen had retired, Palmer turned to the officers of the gaol and remarked: "You see I have never changed from what I first said. All I have to ask of you now is to pray for my child." Again did the high sheriff and the chaplain visit the cell, in the hope that the advent of the last moment might shake the constancy of even that most obdurate criminal. And again they asked him if his sentence was not a just one. "It is not just," he answered, in a firm and emphatic tone. "Then," exclaimed the minister of peace and charity, "your blood be upon your own head!"

It now wanted only ten minutes of the appointed hour. The bell began to toll. The note of preparation roused the weary watchers round the scaffold. A suppressed murmur ran through the crowd like an electric shock. Then silently, with outstretched neck and unswerving eye, every man looked anxiously for that dread procession which was to conduct a fellow-being to the portal of the unknown world. The pigeons that had gathered round the tall stack of chimneys in the prison-yard, sheltering themselves from the rain, and curiously eyeing the assembled multitude, now rose into the air as if to scan the meaning of that uneasy movement; and circling slowly round and round, again alighted on the side of the stack looking towards the scaffold. Still the bell tolled on, making one's blood creep and the brain reel as the purport of its cold, stern, monotonous voice pierced through every nerve—for every nerve became an organ of hearing.

The door of the cell was thrown open: the prisoner set out on his long exile. An ornamental iron staircase of at least a dozen steps leads down to the basement story. Down these he tripped as lightly as would a schoolboy escaping to the playground. The distance he had to traverse was not less than a hundred and fifty yards. With a jaunty step he made the "running"—as he himself would have said—and reached the foot of the ladder two or three minutes before the appointed time. All this time the chaplain read aloud the impressive service for the Burial of the Dead; but his voice faltered and his frame quivered with emotion. And now every head is uncovered, from every lip escapes a stifled exclamation; and then the ear throbs with the unnatural silence. On the centre of the drop, right beneath the beam, there stands William Palmer, erect and unmoved. His face, indeed, is ashy pale, but there is a smile upon his lips. Is it defiance? or rather is it not the shadow of his ancient civility—a trick those lying lips have not yet forgotten? The eyes look puzzled, as if uncertain whether to regard the strange scene as a reality or a frightful phantasma. At each corner of the scaffold stands an official, clothed in black, and bearing a long wand in his hand. The chaplain at the foot of the ladder prays audibly for the departing sinner. The bell tolls on, sad, but inexorable. The people bend forward with throbbing hearts and straining eyes, and deem each minute an hour. The pigeons on the chimney-top plume their feathers, or murmur soft amorous notes—too low in the scale of creation to practise fraud, forgery, seduction, murder, and the other pastimes incidental to beings endowed with reason.

And now the hangman grasps the rope—Palmer bends his head—the noose is slipped over—his face grows yet more ghastly—his throat throbs spasmodically—he moves his neck round, as a man with a tight collar—the hangman is hurrying off the drop—he suddenly betinks him of the cap—turns back—clutches at the criminal's right hand, as if asking for pardon—"God bless you, good by," says the prisoner, in a low, distinct voice—the cap, or white bag, is pulled over his head—the peak blows out from his chin by the violent and rapid respiration—another second, the bolt is drawn,

falls the drop with a slight crash—the arms are torn up from the elbow, with the hands clenched—body whirls round—the hangman from below seizes legs—one escapes from his grasp, and by a mighty misadventure drawn up—the chest thrice heaves convulsively—the hangman loosens his hold—the body in whirls round, then becomes steady, and hangs a grey, shapeless mass, facing the newly risen sun. A minute and a half had elapsed since the bolt was run, but whither had the spirit sped in that brief interval?

Oh! 'twas a fearsome sight—ah me!
A thing to shudder at, not to see.

A few faint screams, a solemn hush, a swaying to and fro of the dense multitude, then the confused murmur of many voices, a slow breaking up of the ring, and presently an almost deserted space, in the rear of which still hung from the beam that dull, grey, shapeless mass which once was William Palmer. The ones, scared by the noise of many thousand footfalls, high into the air, and eddying round once and again, off in search of their morning meal. The clouds parted and the sun shone out brightly and warmly on the felon's corpse, now insensible of pain or pleasure. The motley rabble, inspired by its cheerful, quickened their steps, swarmed into every place of resort for man and beast, called lustily for breakfast, affirmed Palmer's guilt because he had refused to confess them, and declared that a man who could face a so bold a deed was not likely to confess—therefore he suffered justly. The remainder of the day was devoted to business and pleasure. It was market day. Some fished for fish—others pinched the cabbages, burst the green pea-pods, or crunched a green gooseberry—while others laid in their weekly supplies of meat, groceries, such-like household matters. The pleasure-seekers unanimously paid their penny and visited the amusing collection of animals, comprising, among others of nature, a porcupine and a boa-constrictor. There were the intellectual idlers; the sensualists frittered away their casual coppers on cakes and oranges, and ginger-pop. And still the sun shone on, and rooping flowers raised their heads and returned his smiling smile, and the birds sang out merrily from copse and tree and hedgerow. But where now William Palmer?

After hanging one hour, the body was cut down and rolled into the gaol, the machine at the same time wheeled off into the coach-house in the yard on the opposite side of the road. The criminal had been bed in the grey garb of the prison, as his own s had been sent to his family from London. He will thus escape the doubtful honour of being executed in Baker-street, though the rope may yet be rable from the officer who superintends the old department of the gaol. Perhaps the Messrs. and may not be sorry to learn that this same functionary possesses the dress and lethal rope rendered sacred, according to their idiosyncrasy, by being connected with the last moments of William Moore, executed at Stafford, in 1853, for murdering an aged couple, Blackburn, residing at Ash Flatts, and then setting to their cottage. But if nothing short of William Palmer will satisfy their idolatry, let them proceed to Tipton, and there, in a tailor's shop window, will behold a waistcoat that once belonged to that historical personage. This waistcoat fell into the hands of the notorious Walkeden, sometime bottle-maker to poor Walter Palmer, and he, wise in his generation, exchanged it for an entire suit of clothes, in which he may be seen brazening it—with the worst—in the streets of Wolverhampton; Stafford having become hateful to him. To return to Palmer.

His head was now closely shaven—the hair had been closely cut close at Palmer's request, because he was allowed to use his own brush and comb—and Mr. from Manchester, and Mr. Bridges from Liverpool immediately set about taking a cast of his features. It was the more easy that they had escaped all distortions. He looked like a man oppressed with the sleep arising from utter exhaustion. His eyelids were closed, and his eyes not even bloodshot. Beneath the eye, indeed, there was a blue mark where the knot pressed; otherwise, no traces of violence were visible in the upper part of his person. On the scapulae, however, the soft, white, dimpled hands, of which he had been so vain, were the first to indicate the general condition of the heart's blood. They suddenly became blue, and finally black. In stature, William Palmer was a little over five feet seven inches, but remarkably broad-shouldered and thick-set. When seen, the muscular development of his frame struck me with admiration. His weight exceeded fifteen stone all bone and muscle, though not in fighting trim. The most part of his conformation was his head. The facial features were excessively large—secretiveness, a deformity—veneration and benevolence better might have been expected by those who were unused to his regular attendance at church, his kindness to wife and child, and his affability and liberality to students. But even with these good points it was fully impossible for him ever to have been a good philanthropist, to be selfish and cynical. The

one was organized to care for nothing, the other for everything, but self.

The two casts being taken, the naked body was carried out to the back of the chapel and thrown into a hole a fathom deep, a couple of feet from the last resting place of the murderer Moore. A quantity of quicklime and some buckets of water were then poured in, and the grave filled up with earth as rapidly as possible.

No useless coffin confines his breast,
Nor in sheet nor in shroud they wound him;
But he lies like a felon taking his rest,
With quicklime all about him.

In my last letter I spoke of Palmer's walk from the station to the gaol. It would seem that he himself was not so deeply impressed with the solemnity of the occasion as the majority of the bystanders. On alighting at the station, he was received by Wollaston, the superintendent of the borough police, whom he recognized with a pleasant smile and the ordinary salutation. As soon as they were in the road, he inquired at what hour the news of his conviction was known in Stafford, and if the *Advertiser* had issued a special number. Stepping into a puddle, he asked if it had been raining, and remarked that the townspeople were very economical in not lighting the gas during the summer months. Somebody having brought out a candle to the door of a house, one of the crowd attempted to get on to the pavement to have a better view, but tripped against the kerbstone, and fell forward. Palmer laughed, and cried, "That's it—go it!" Soon afterwards he complained that his fetters prevented him from walking properly, and expressed a wish that he was snug within the gaol. He also acknowledged that the trial had fatigued him a good deal, and added that there were some people who seemed very anxious to make him out guilty. "I don't mind," he said, "people having their own opinions, but when medical men pretend to give evidence, and do nothing but tell lies, that's rather too bad."

When Palmer first appeared on the scaffold, the representatives of the Press, crowding together in front, suddenly pulled out their note-books and stood ready, pencil in hand, to take down his last dying speech and confession. There was something ludicrous in this exhibition of discipline. They were quite as anxious as the vulgar herd to observe the demeanour of such an unparalleled culprit, but their duty was to note down his words. So there they stood, gazing at their note-books, with the pencil ready poised—*intenti ora tenebant*. Could Palmer have turned his thoughts from his own awful position, he must have smiled at their eagerness for a paragraph, or perhaps he would have fancied himself once more in the midst of the betting ring.

As might be expected, Rugeley has become the resort of pilgrims from all parts of the kingdom. Some yards of the courtyard in front of William Palmer's house have been broken up, and the huge pebbles carried off as mementos. Our ancestors, the early Britons, would have acted very differently. Instead of carrying off these stones as so many trophies, they would have piled up a cairn upon the accursed spot. In what are we wiser than they? Other persons content themselves with breaking off twigs from the young yew-tree beside Cooke's grave, or with having their own photographic likenesses taken by an artist who "solicits their patronage at the rear of the premises lately occupied by William Palmer." One young man, last Saturday, performed his pilgrimage in a manner to command the envy of his fellow-boobies. He passed the night in the bed wherein poor Cooke had breathed his last, and on the following Sunday had the impertinence to seat himself in Palmer's pew, and make use of his prayer-book—it is a marvel that he did not steal it. Others, with equal good taste and feeling, stand about in front of old Mrs. Palmer's house, in the hope of seeing her little grandson, happily unconscious of his sad fate, playing in the garden; or of catching a glimpse of her own mature charms. William Palmer's house will probably be pulled down, and a new street opened out, facing the Talbot Arms. Accompanying the pilgrims, burglars have made their appearance. Ah! rural felicity! Ah! rustic virtue!

It has been frequently stated that Mrs. William Palmer's life was embittered by the suspicion that her husband was a poisoner, and the murderer of his own children. The statement is almost too absurd to need refutation. It is true that the unfortunate lady had become low-spirited and melancholy some time before her death. But this is attributable to her knowledge of her husband's pecuniary embarrassments, and her consequent anticipation of ruin. It is universally acknowledged that Palmer treated his wife with uniform tenderness. He was not an ordinary ruffian. His disposition was not naturally addicted to cruelty or violence. His manners were habitually plausible, and, had they not been underbred, would have been insinuating. He was what is commonly called "too civil by half." It was no part of his character to torture his victims unnecessarily. If they stood in his path, and their removal could be of positive, however temporary, advantage, he put them aside with as little remorse as if he had been "nobbling" a horse. And then went on smiling as before, and remained "a nice, pleasant sort of gentleman" to the last. Like Eban,

He smiled at self, and, smiling, show'd his teeth,
And, seeing his white teeth, he smiled the more;
Lifted his eyebrows, spurn'd the path beneath,
Show'd teeth again, and smiled as heretofore.

His approach was stealthy and feline. He purred until he sprang. Intense selfishness taught him that if he would use his neighbours, he must keep them in good humour, and dispose of them favourably to himself. Having nicely calculated the chances of detection on the one hand, and the benefit to be derived on the other, he made his choice, and never lost sight of his purpose until it was accomplished. But it is ridiculous to suppose that his wife would have consorted with a man whom she suspected of having murdered her mother and four of her own infant children. The knowledge of a husband's infidelity would alone be sufficient to render a wife unhappy, and in this case she was also aware that his circumstances were hopelessly involved. That she may have suspected him of dishonourable practices is also quite possible—and if she did forge old Mrs. Palmer's name, she had even a guilty knowledge of the fact. It is certain that none of his neighbours respected him. His associates were horse-trainers, or such fellows as George Bate and Jeremiah Smith: latterly he inveigled poor Cooke within his net. On one occasion, at least, his brother George, addressing him as "Wm. Palmer," declined to have any further transactions with him, and boldly charged him with dishonesty. This noble-minded brother, if report be true, has generously made out a heavy bill of costs—including various writs served upon newspapers—the payment of which he demands from his mother, the golden milch-cow of that hopeful family. It is estimated that the expence of Palmer's defence, from first to last, will not fall short of 5000*l*.

William Palmer was essentially a coarse, sensual, selfish man. He was not a drunkard, or ever much addicted to drink; but no man could do more justice to a good dinner. Not that he was a dainty feeder—he asked for quantity rather than variety. His appetite needed no stimulants. Writing once from York to his "dearest Annie," he announces his safe arrival, and then goes on to tell her how heartily he had enjoyed his beef-steak and potatoes; he cannot yet name the winning horses, but hopes that his wife and the baby are quite well. The table, the turf, and then the domestic relations! Perhaps, however, the turf occupied the prominent point in his thoughts and character. Horse-racing was a family weakness. The Palmers, one and all, yielded to the spell, though not to such an extent as the medical gentleman. A fatal propensity did it prove to the latter. And it is remarkable how seldom he was a winner. His best chance of success was in running Nettle for the Oaks, when he stood to win 10,000*l*. But the mare bolted, fell over the chains, and threw her jockey, whose leg was fractured. Even this disappointment made no visible impression on his iron nerves. He scarcely noticed the accident beyond remarking to an acquaintance, "It is a bore, though, is it not?" Success or misadventure he bore with equal equanimity, and was never either elated or depressed.

From his earliest boyhood William Palmer was addicted to falsehood and fraud. Though always eager to oblige, he never commanded esteem. No one ever placed confidence in him without being deceived. More than once, in his youth, he robbed his employers and cheated his companions. It is believed that he seduced no fewer than fourteen women from the paths of virtue, his last exploit being reserved for the night after his wife's death. His extravagance dates from his childhood. He would borrow money under false pretences from his father's labourers, in order to treat his playfellows. As an apprentice, he abstracted money from letters entrusted to his care, that he might indulge his nascent passion for gambling. While walking the hospital—St. Bartholomew's—he committed his first forgery, and dissipated a fortune in riotous living. As a married man, he was notoriously unfaithful to his marriage vow. His wife, his mother-in-law, his brother, four legitimate and at least three illegitimate children, his confidential associate, at least one other sporting companion, a woman he had deceived, and a man he had wronged—all these mysteriously perished. The death of every one of these persons was a gain to him, either immediate or prospective. He had a motive for their removal—and they were removed. Besides these criminal offences, he was guilty of the baseness of accusing his dead wife, murdered by his own hands, of forging the name of her mother-in-law, though avowedly for his sole benefit; and he certainly connived at the prostitution of his own mother. On the other hand, he was a very civil-spoken gentleman. He had a smile and a shilling for every groom, ostler, chambermaid, and waitress in the county. He was a regular attendant at church, made notes of the sermon, subscribed to charities and missionary objects, and took the Sacrament. And, had he been a free man at the time, would no doubt have addressed His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury on the impropriety of allowing innocent recreation on the Sabbath.

ALLEGED MANSLAUGHTER OF A LUNATIC.

Mr. Charles Snape, the resident surgeon of the County Lunatic Asylum at Wandsworth, appeared at Bow-street, on Monday, upon a summons, to answer the

charge of having killed Daniel Doley, aged sixty-five, an inmate of the establishment.

Doley was occasionally excitable, and it appeared that it was the custom to place the patients, while in that state, in a cold shower-bath, with a view to quieting them. On the morning of the 9th of April, Doley was reported excitable, and Mr. Snape directed that he should be subjected to the cold-water-bath. On seeing Mr. Snape with the key in his hand proceeding to the bath door, Doley became violent, struck Mr. Snape on the head with his fist, and ran off, but was overtaken and brought forcibly back. "Mr. Snape," according to the preliminary statement of Mr. Bodkin, "desired the attendants to strip him. They did so. Doley then went into the bath. The cold water was turned upon him. He was kept there twenty-eight minutes, and within fifteen or sixteen minutes after he was taken out he died. Now it was necessary that he (Mr. Bodkin) should describe what that bath was. The Commissioners had directed the fullest inquiry upon the subject, and two gentlemen were appointed to make the requisite examination. They reported that the bath was so constructed as to form a closed box. There was no aperture for air or light, and the door was secured by a bar outside. Whenever a patient was placed within that box, he was utterly defenceless. If the symptoms of illness or death came upon him, the attendant outside would remain ignorant of it while the door was kept closed. By a calculation which had been made by the two gentlemen referred to, it had been ascertained that the water descended in a continuous stream in the proportion of twenty gallons per minute upon the head of the patient barred within that box. The orifices through which the water ran were unusually large, and, assuming the bath to be conducted in the ordinary way on the morning in question, there must have been nearly six hundred gallons of cold water poured down upon the head of the deceased during the twenty-eight minutes he was confined in the box. And here he (Mr. Bodkin) was bound to direct attention to a very remarkable observation which was made by Mr. Snape, and which, he feared, evinced the sort of animus that influenced his mind at the moment. He said to one of the attendants, 'I have never been struck by a patient before. Keep him in half an hour, and then give him a dose of the light-coloured mixture.' It seemed to be part of the system to follow up the bath by administering to the lunatic certain doses of tartar emetic, which were kept close to the bath, so as to be readily accessible to the attendants, without their having to go to Mr. Snape for them." According to the evidence of Barnett, the attendant, Mr. Snape added to the speech above quoted, "and look to him several times." Barnett did so five times while he was in the bath. This witness stated that he had often put patients in the bath for twenty minutes, and that it seemed to do them good. Doley had been in before for twenty minutes. The bath was ordered, not as a punishment, but "to allay excitement." Doley for a month past had been kept on gruel. When he came out of the bath, a patient offered him a piece of bread, but he declined it, saying, "I am too cold." He was shivering violently, but not more so than persons usually are when they come out of a cold bath. He held his hands over his head while in the bath; but this is commonly done. The witness did not see any symptoms of distress when he looked in.

The proceedings (which were taken by the Commissioners of Lunacy in consequence of an anonymous letter) were adjourned for two or three weeks. Mr. Snape was not required to give bail.

CAPTURE OF SWINDLERS.—James Allen, sen., James Allen, jun., and Charles Boyce, have been brought before the Leicester bench of magistrates on a charge of wholesale swindling. These men established themselves in Leicester some time ago, and succeeded in imposing successfully upon several tradesmen to the amount of several hundreds of pounds. The elder Allen took a house in the New Walk, dressed well, and described himself as a retired commercial traveller. He also took a shop in Southgate-street, and opened it with a large stock of grocery goods, which he obtained from different tradesmen. Being a man of considerable address, he managed to carry on his operations for some time without detection; but he has at length been arrested, together with his son and the man Boyce, and all three are now under remand. The elder Allen has passed under nine aliases.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.—The June Sessions commenced on Monday, on which day, Henry Edwards, a licensed victualler, was found guilty of receiving stolen goods, and sentenced to eleven months' imprisonment, and Walter Scott Dowling, a clerk, was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, for embezzlement. Henry Fitzgerald, a respectable-looking young man, has been acquitted of a charge of embezzlement. As Mr. Sleight, who defended the accused, was leaving the court, the prosecutor said to him, "I should like to give you a good shaking." On Mr. Sleight complaining of this, the prosecutor was detained in custody for some time, when, on his expressing regret for what he had said, he was allowed to leave. John Marney was found guilty of coinage and sentenced to six years' penal servitude.

Mary Marney, said to be his wife, was acquitted on the same charge.—Edward Owen, John Ingram Owen, and George Smith Owen, brothers, pleaded "Guilty" to several indictments, charging them with uttering forged cheques, and also forged orders for cheque-books, with intent to defraud. Sentence was deferred till next day, when George was sentenced to be transported for fourteen years, John to be kept in penal servitude for four years, and Edward was ordered to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for twelve months.—Harriet Graham, who was found guilty last session of attempting to discharge a loaded pistol at Mr. Graham, of the Princess's Theatre, her husband, was brought up and sentenced to four months' imprisonment.—William Lewes, a sailor, has been found guilty of the charge (detailed in the *Leader* of May 31) of conspiring to take possession of the ship Stebonheath and to murder the crew. The defence was that it was more likely that the men who gave evidence against him were the really guilty parties, and that they now sought to make him the scapegoat. He was sentenced to transportation for life.—Spearman Lusick, a Prussian sailor, was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment and hard labour for stabbing a woman.—Frederick Phillips, labourer, and William Jacobs, clerk, were sentenced to four years' penal servitude for obtaining hay under false pretences. They belonged to the Rickaby gang.

MAD DRUNK.—John Costello, a rough-looking man, was charged at Westminster, on Tuesday, with being drunk and disorderly. He was endeavouring to force his way into a public-house in Chelsea, when a policeman interfered. The ruffian knocked down the constable and ill used him to such a degree that he was obliged to relinquish his hold. Other constables then arrived; but the man struggled desperately with them, threw them down, kicked them savagely, and was at length only subdued by being struck over the legs with a staff. He was sentenced to two months' imprisonment, and ordered to find bail for good conduct for two months.

A CASE OF ASSURANCE.—An action was brought on Monday in the Court of Queen's Bench by a Mr. Truelock, against the Householders and General Life Assurance Company, to recover the sum of 1000*l.*, due upon a policy of insurance effected in September, 1854, on the life of Mr. Joddrell, the son and heir of Sir Richard Joddrell, Bart., of Chilwick Hall, near St. Alban's. Mr. Truelock had been a member of the Stock Exchange, and, being introduced to Mr. Joddrell, he advanced money to him with a view to keeping up two policies of 5000*l.* each, effected on Mr. Joddrell's life in the Medical and Invalid Assurance Company. Two premiums of 330*l.* each were paid by Mr. Truelock; and he then applied to an actuary to procure 14,000*l.* worth of insurances on Mr. Joddrell's life, and, with that view, signed papers to be laid before the Kent Mutual Insurance-office. That office declined the proposal on the ground that Mr. Joddrell was a man of intemperate habits, but intimated that the offer would be accepted with an addition of twenty-two years to the life. A proposal was then made to the Householders-office, and the papers which had been laid before the Kent Society were sent in to them. At first, the proposal was declined, but it was ultimately accepted on the condition of adding fourteen years to Mr. Joddrell's age. The policy being thus effected, it became, according to the principle of the society, "indisputable," except only in the case of "gross fraud." It appeared that in the papers sent to the Householders-office, it was stated that Mr. Joddrell had recovered from the effects of his former intemperate habits, and that he had reformed his way of life. In the cross-examination of Mr. Truelock it was sought to show that, to the plaintiff's knowledge, Mr. Joddrell (who died last November) had had several attacks of *delirium tremens*, and that he had been under restraint on account of insanity brought on by drink; but Mr. Truelock denied all cognizance of these assertions. The Attorney-General, who appeared for the insurance-office, contended that a gross fraud had been practised on the company. Adverting to the irregular habits of Mr. Joddrell, he made the rather naïve statement that "his mother thought the best thing to keep him steady was to get him a wife, and accordingly, in the year 1848, he was married to a daughter of Lord Mountcashel." It would seem, however, that this did not have the desired effect, for in 1854 he had a renewed attack of *delirium tremens*. Among other documents, a letter, written by Mr. Joddrell, was read, in which the writer expressed a desire to find out and trounce the "seducer" of the scandal that he (Joddrell) had ever been under restraint. The jury returned a verdict for Mr. Truelock, as they conceived the plea of fraud had not been proved.—Another action was on Tuesday brought by Mr. Truelock against the Prince of Wales Life and Educational Assurance Company, under similar circumstances. The evidence was mainly the same; and the verdict was again given for the plaintiff, to the amount claimed (7000*l.*) Lord Campbell earnestly and solemnly expressed his hope that this would be a warning to the insurance companies. One of the jurymen observed that the practice of the modern insurance-offices is most prejudicial, and cuts at the root of making provision for helpless families. In this observation Lord Campbell said he most heartily concurred.

BRINGING A MAN'S NOSE.—John Duggan, a coal-

whipper, has been examined at the Thames police office, and committed for trial on a charge of biting off part of the nose of another coalwhipper named Dwyer, with whom he had quarrelled.

THE SEDUCTIONS OF BETTING.—An Irish gentleman has applied to Mr. Norton, at the Lambeth police court, for advice under the following circumstances:—He and a friend were returning from Ascot races a few days since, in a second-class railway carriage. Here they were followed by three respectable-looking men, one of whom took out a pack of cards, which he shuffled, and, laying three of them, apparently with their faces upwards, on his knees, offered to bet anybody that he could not point out the Queen of Spades. The applicant kept on betting until he lost all the money he had about him, amounting to 4*l.* 10*s.*, while his friend lost 2*l.* He was then repeatedly urged to continue betting by a man sitting next to him (probably an accomplice of the card sharper), who lent him 25*l.* for the purpose. This was also lost, and the gentleman had to repay it to the lender after he got home. Mr. Norton advised the applicant to give information of the occurrence to Mr. Bent, the railway inspector, who knew the parties.

DEADLY COMMENTS ON "OUR CIVILIZATION."—We find the following among the notes attached to the Registrar-General's Weekly Return of Deaths:—"At St. George's Workhouse, Little Chelsea, on 10th and 13th June respectively, a male and female foundling, aged five weeks, 'marasmus, want of breastmilk.' These children were twins. *Deserted.* At 17, Doris-street East, on 11th June, a clicker, aged twenty-seven years, epilepsy (six weeks). The medical attendant adds:—"It appears that these epileptic fits were produced by the deceased having been robbed of his watch in a crowd at Islington on the 16th April last. He was subject to fits in childhood, and had one about once in twelve months since he has grown up."

WOMAN-BEATING.—Three cases of violence to women have come before the magistrates this week.—Michael Phillips was sentenced by the Lord Mayor to two months' imprisonment, with hard labour, for beating his wife.—At Westminster, John Wright, a chimney-sweeper, is under remand for assaulting his wife with the stick of one of his chimney-sweeping machines, and injuring her to so great a degree over the head that she was carried to the hospital. In this case there had been provocation in the shape of the woman throwing a pint pot at her husband's head; but she in her turn had been irritated by abusive language from the man, who cohabited with another woman.—Charles Rush, a labourer, is also under remand at the same office, on a similar charge. His wife was dragged by him out of a sick bed, kicked, and bitten. Her cries brought assistance, and she was rescued half dead. The man was drunk.

WIDOW AND NO WIDOW.—Mrs. Mary Eliza M'Nair, a lady-like woman, forty-four years of age, has been tried at the Central Criminal Court on a charge of obtaining money on false pretences, and with intent to defraud. She was in the receipt of a pension from the East India Company, which was only to be paid as long as she should remain a widow; but she continued to receive it for some ten years after her second marriage, during the whole of which time she represented herself as living singly. In the course of the trial, a document was put in, signed by the Rev. Mr. Redfern, curate of St. Pancras, which certified that he had seen and examined Eliza M'Nair, and he firmly believed her to be the person she represented herself to be. In reply to questions by Mr. Justice Coleridge, Mr. Redfern admitted that he knew nothing of the person to whose identity he testified; but he added that it was the usual course taken with certificates of that description. On the Judge remonstrating with him, he promised to discontinue the practice. Mr. Serjeant Ballantine made rather a strange defence. He observed that, had the prisoner chosen to "live a life of sin," she might have kept the pension; but she was too "pure and honourable-minded" to pursue such a course. She was evidently ignorant of European habits, and had probably been instigated to the fraud by her husband, a worthless fellow who now deserted her, and left her to bear the brunt. The jury found her guilty, and she was condemned to a year's imprisonment with hard labour.

BETTING HOUSES.—Not less than twenty persons have been summoned before Alderman Carden on a charge of permitting their houses to be used for betting purposes, in consequence of which they have rendered themselves liable to a penalty of 100*l.*, or six months' imprisonment. The cases were disposed of in various ways; two of the defendants were fined 20*l.*, or two months' imprisonment, and in three instances the summonses were dismissed. Most of the other cases were allowed to stand over, owing to the police not having been able to ascertain the correct Christian names of the parties summoned. Warrants were likewise issued against some of the defendants who refused to appear.

JEWEL ROBBERY.—Henry Stevens, a person about 45 years of age, was charged with having committed a most audacious robbery in the shop of Mr. Cockayne, a jeweller, No. 48, Mark-lane. He entered the shop in the evening, together with a companion, and, while the latter seized Mr. Cockayne tightly by the throat, he proceeded to rifle the shop. On being pursued and cap-

is violence was excessive, and he was rather used in consequence. Several members of the litan and City Police stated that the man, upon one occasion, imprisoned two years for with violence, and upon many occasions for arms. They did not know whether he was a convict, but they hoped the Alderman would him, in order that particular inquiries might be o his past career, as well as for other reasons. herefore remanded for a week.

VED PARENTS.—Christopher Ward, described ic engraver, in the employ of Mr. Goodwin, of Vellington-street, Strand, was summoned at et, under the new Reformatory Act, to show y he should not contribute to the support of John Ward, who was convicted of felony at the arter Sessions in March last. The father at he had the boy in London last year, and a situation for him at a printer's in Wood-t he stopped out late at night, and only kept a few months; after which he left his father ad to his mother, who had been cohabiting with an at Leeds, and caused the boy to be what He separated from his wife ten years ago at h, and made her an allowance, which he kept e found she had other connexions. Evidence ards given to show that the father's habits eprayed as the mother's; and he was ordered . 6d. a week.

MURDERS NEAR MELTON MOWBRAY.—The the Thorpe toll-gate (a mile out of Mowbray, antham Road) has been murdered, together grandson. The old man and the boy were Thursday morning in their dwelling, horribly . An inquest has been opened, and is adjourned. l convict, named Brown, lies under suspicion, olice are searching for him

RETURN OF GENERAL WILLIAMS.

e defender of Kars arrived at Dover on Mon- was met by the Mayor and a large crowd of ic welcomers, and, having repaired to the ip Hotel, he received a deputation from the authorities of the town. After the reading of

Williams replied as follows:—"Mr. Mayor, gentlemen, in returning thanks for the honour done me, it is in terms inadequate to express s that I do so. Seldom, if ever, called on to body of ladies and gentlemen such as I now ur. under difficulties of no ordinary character; re you that I feel most deeply the honour you me. I feel it the more, perhaps, in conse- this day: being the anniversary of the day General Mouravieff appeared before Kars. For myself, I thank God for having preserved b so many dangers, and that it has been my serve the Queen in such a manner. I am at it has pleased her Majesty to shower on y honours: I am thankful that I have ob- goodwill of this glorious country; and espe- I have been spared to witness the manifesta- his day. (Cheers.) In addressing an assem- y countrymen on landing upon British soil, I than one duty to perform; and the first is to those brave men who surrounded me in extreme distress, who were indefatigable in y their duty under the trying circumstances they were placed, and who supported and under every difficulty. (Hear, hear.) They flagged in the performance of their duties, ht. By day they were at their posts—at were in the trenches. (Cheers.) But, while I latest pleasure in adverting to their glorious have a melancholy duty to perform, and a pay to departed heroism and worth—to the f one of my brave companions, Captain

It was only the day before yesterday, aris, that I heard of his severe illness, and I then think that the scenes of this world close upon him. I had looked forward to mother's house and cheering him as he had ly cheered me. Unfortunately, unhappily, it rdered otherwise. The only consolation which red to his widowed mother is, that her lan died a glorious specimen of an English (Cheers.) I can assure you that he was never that when reduced to a skeleton, by dire dis- as not prevented from doing his duty day or or Mrs. Thompson will have the consolation been the only consolation experienced by ers during the present war—they have given to the service of the country! And if the day n the repetition of this sacrifice shall be ne- believe there will be thousands who will give pping as readily as the mothers who are now r, the loss of theirs; for woe to the nation a the military art! Woe to that nation— t nation—which heaps up riches but which take the precaution to defend them. (Hear, ave passed through armed Europe, and I take llast opportunity of uttering a warning to forget the military art. (Cheers.) I have ty to perform, and that is, to recal the cou-

rage and discipline of those brave Turks, under Sélim Pacha, their commanding officer, and the Turkish general officers, who supported me in every trying situation, and who, from the first moment of enter- ing the place to the last, were my friends and coun- sellors. I thank them from this spot, and bear testi- mony to their valour, for it would have been impossible for the Turkish army to show more endurance and true courage than they did. (Loud cheers.) I have another duty to perform, in doing which I turn to our former enemies, now our friends, the Russians. When dire necessity obliged me to go into the camp of General Mouravieff, I went to a brave man, who received me with a kindness and a highmindedness I shall never cease to remember. An army irritated with dreadful losses and the other casualties of war received me when I went among them, not as an enemy but as a comrade—re- ceived me not with the skin-deep politeness displayed when two gentlemen meet, but with the politeness of the heart. General Mouravieff is a man of the olden time. He is a stern man, but I believe that if there is an honest man on earth it is he. I have heard it said that a pro- ject has been debated in England, having for its object the presentation of a testimonial of British esteem to General Mouravieff. I can only say, that he and his brave army have my greatest esteem. (Hear.) He not only received me kindly, but in the hour of sickness he visited me, and in all my intercourse with him he acted as a brave and chivalrous man should act. In Kars he found a half-starved, half-clothed army. He fed and clothed them. Nor was he less attentive to the wants of those in whom the seeds of disease were sown, and in whom famine had more than half accomplished its deadly work. (Loud cheers.) I must also tell you that in passing through Russia, from one end of the em- pire to the other, I have experienced in no small degree the friendship and charm of Russian society. When I arrived at St. Petersburg the Emperor received me in so kind a manner that nothing could have ex- ceeded it. (Hear, hear.) That kindness was again re- peated at Berlin, where no man could have been re- ceived with greater honour. The King of Prussia and the young Prince, who is at present in England, and who is soon to be allied to England by ties more close and binding than at present, met me at the head of the troops, and treated me with the greatest possible consi- deration. I return them my most sincere thanks from this British ground. (Cheers.) The kindness and con- sideration which, as I tell you, were vouchsafed to me in Russia and Germany were repeated in France, when I arrived among our glorious and brave allies, the French. (Hear.) God grant that that alliance may hold good for many years to come! (Loud and pro- longed cheering.) The day before yesterday, I was pre- sented to the Emperor, from whom some time since I had the distinguished honour of receiving the cross of Commander of the Legion of Honour. I was sorry that, having sent it to England, I was unable to wear it upon my breast upon that occasion, and I expressed that regret to the Emperor and explained the reason; upon which his Majesty immediately rose from his seat and said, 'I will get you another!' In a moment he brought me out the star of Grand Commander of the order, which he presented to me. (Loud cheers.) I felt that the act was towards the British nation—not towards me; it was totally unexpected and uncalled for. And now that I have arrived home among you I feel that I am wit- nessing the happiest day of my life. (Cheers.) Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you most heartily for your kind expressions, and for the consideration with which you have listened to me."

A BLIND MAN'S JOURNEY.

A young blind man, named Thomas Scholesfield, applied on Wednesday at the Lambeth Police-court for assis- tance. He had been born blind near Bolton, in Lanca- shire; and, his father becoming advanced in years, and his sight partially failing him, he (the son) determined on coming up to London, seeking admission into the Blind School in St. George's-fields, and learning some trade that he might support himself and family. But, to his great disappointment, he learnt that he could not be received, on account of being over the age of limita- tion (twenty), unless he could bring extraordinary in- terest to bear. This he could not do, and he was now left in London without money to take him back to his home. The magistrate, who greatly commiserated his case, gave him 1l. out of the poor-box, and got him to leave his address, that he might communicate with him f any money should be transmitted by the benevolent.

In answer to a question from the magistrate, as to how he found his way up to London, Scholesfield replied that, "hearing" the hedges on each side, he managed to keep the centre of the road as near as possible, and tra- velled the whole distance without a single accident; but the roughness of the road had very nearly worn out a stout pair of shoes. He never, he said, ran foul of any impediment that was as tall as himself, as he always "heard" it as he approached, and therefore avoided it. The lamp-posts, he added, he "heard" as he approached within a couple of yards of them, and could count every one on the side of the street on which he passed. The impediments which puzzled him were short posts, or heaps of stones not sufficiently high to reach his ear; but he generally managed to avoid accidents.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

THE baptism of the Imperial Prince took place last Saturday at half-past five o'clock, P.M., at the cathedral of Notre Dame, amidst a great accumulation of splen- dours, ecclesiastical, civil, and military. We have nei- ther the space nor the heart to repeat the gorgeous absurdities with which the ceremony was surrounded, and need only mention that the Cardinal Legate con- ducted the baby to the font; that his Eminence went through the various buffooneries with due gravity; that, after these things were happily concluded, an Assistant Master of the Ceremonies cried aloud three times "Vive le Prince Impérial!" that the Pontifical blessing, de- livered by the Cardinal Legate, concluded the ceremony; that there was great noise of cannon before and after; that there were flags and streamers enough to make a gala day; and that a great crowd assembled to see the show. Nearly eighty prelates were present, and among them were three Irish Roman Catholic Bishops on their way from Rome.

A grand fête, to commemorate the ceremony of the previous day, was given on Sunday in Paris and in all the principal towns of France.

The village of Bezandun, in the department of the Drôme, and eighty acres of the most fertile land in the department, have been swept away by a landslip, and the ruins carried into the river Bine. The château of Truinas, in the same department, has likewise been de- stroyed. The southern departments have not only suf- fered severely by the late inundations, but are likewise about to be deprived of a great source of wealth, at least for this season. It appears that the silkworms are dying of a disease which the Italians call *gattine*. Their growth becomes stopped. Some produce a few threads, and others attempt to form a ball, but the silk is of no value. The silk crop for this year will be the worst that was ever known.—*Times Marseilles Correspondent*.

A subscription (says a Calais paper) is being formed for the erection of a chapel at Agincourt in honour of the French victims of that battle. It is known that amongst the dead were 8000 knights and esquires, more than one hundred baronets, seven counts, the Dukes of Brabant, Bar, and Alençon, and the constable and ad- miral of France. The subscription is being received by a Franco-Belgian commission, which includes the highest names of the two countries.

The Emperor, on Friday week, received the different deputations and jurors of the Cattle Show at the Tuileries, at two o'clock; and among the rest, those from the Royal Agricultural Societies of Great Britain and Ireland.

On the occasion of the baptism of the Imperial Prince, the Emperor has pardoned 291 persons confined in the bagnes and prisons of the empire, commuted or reduced the penalties of 489 others, and remitted the fines of 251 delinquents. He has also granted a remis- sion of the remainder of their punishments to 180 military offenders, and a reduction to 123 others.

In connexion with the same event, the city of Paris gave a ball on Monday night to the Emperor and Em- press. The Hôtel de Ville was ornamented much in the same manner as on the occasion of the Queen's visit last August. At the banquet given in the same place on the previous Saturday, the day of the ceremony (when the Emperor was also present), an awkward accident happened. It was found, on their arrival, that there was literally "no place" for six cardinals who were among the guests. Fancy a cardinal being ad- dressed in the language of Malthus to the poor—"There is no place for you at the table!" However, matters did not quite come to that pass: their Eminences were squeezed in somehow—higgledy-piggledy. Let us hope they bore the chastening misfortune with proper Chris- tian resignation.

Cardinal Patrizzi has presented "the Golden Rose" to the Empress, as a type of "the joy of the two Jeru- salems, that is, of the Church Triumphant and the Church Militant," and of "the joy of all the saints."

Prince Napoleon has started for the north of Europe in the Reine Hortense.

A project of law on the Regency has been presented to the French Senate. Enough has transpired to show that the Empress is the regent proposed in case of the Em- peror's demise. She is to be assisted by a Council of Regency, named by the Emperor in a letter which is to remain closed until that event. In case of the Em- press's demise the nearest relative of the Emperor is to be Regent, but only until such time as the Senate shall have named a Council of Regency; the Emperor still reserving the right of a previous nomination which will supersede that of the Senate.

The Senate, as we learn by three lines in the *Moniteur*, has achieved its first act of opposition. It has actually thrown out a bill, and a very important bill. By a ma- jority of 60 against 56, this body of salaried nominees has made a marvellous show of independence, and against the orders of the Government which created and pays it, has put a veto upon the measure for imposing a tax upon horses and carriages used in Paris, which had been accepted by the Corps Législatif.—*Daily News*.

It is stated confidently that the proposed bill on the customs duties will meet with a serious opposition in the Corps Législatif. All the commissioners named are opposed to the measure.—*Morning Post*.

Some arrests of Socialists have been made in the south. It is thought that a conspiracy exists.

AUSTRIA.
The Austrian ecclesiastics claim the right of being listened to by the police, and, in fact, of exercising complete control over the secular power; but it is said the Emperor denies this claim. A Jesuit priest recently sought by his own authority to remove from the windows of a china warehouse two figures of Ariadne and Cybele which offended the purity of his morals; but the shopkeeper defied him, and has carried his point. There is some hope yet for Austria.

The Bishops, who are extremely desirous to get rid of the Protestant professors from the universities, have proposed to Count Leo Thun to make the universities of Vienna, Prague, and Pesth exclusively Catholic; but the idea is said not to have met with the approval of that Minister.

Three well-defined cases of cholera have occurred in Vienna during the last week or two.

PRUSSIA.
"In certain circles here and in Potsdam," says the *Times* Berlin correspondent, "a good deal of remark has been occasioned by letters written by Prince Frederick William of Prussia during his present stay in England; the contents of these letters, it appears, do not give unqualified satisfaction in certain quarters, but I am given to understand that if known they would secure him widely-extended sympathy in England."

RUSSIA.
The *Oesterreichische Zeitung* learns from St. Petersburg that there has been a sharp conflict between the English and French prisoners at Kharkoff, in Southern Russia.

It does not appear at present (says the *Times* Berlin correspondent) that there is any immediate intention of rebuilding Sebastopol. Now that the harbour is no longer to be used for vessels of war, the value of the site is almost destroyed, for as a commercial station it cannot in any way be compared with Odessa. It is understood, however, that some few points of the southern part of the city, which are requisite to the completion of the system of defence of which the north side forms only a portion, will be restored.

The King of Prussia has conferred on the Emperor of Russia the Cross of a Commander of the Order of the House of Hohenzollern. Count Hatzfeld, the Prussian Minister in Paris, is understood to have taken back with him, on his return to that capital, the Order of the Black Eagle, to be presented to Count Walewski. Baron Brunow has presented to the French Emperor four Russian orders at once. Among them, it is supposed, was the Order of St. Andrew.

The probable future representative of Russia at London is Councillor Nicolay.

The increased strictness that has been introduced of late by the Russian Embassy at Berlin into its practice with regard to passports is said to be only the precursor of a much more indulgent course, and to have been resorted to temporarily for the purpose of rectifying a good many instances of too great laxity, according to Russian views.

The Russian Minister of State Tourkull, to whom the affairs of Poland have been long entrusted, died at Warsaw on the 11th instant, from the consequences of a malady which he contracted while travelling with the Emperor from St. Petersburg to Warsaw. Prince Golenischeff-Kontousoff, a Pole by birth, has been appointed to succeed M. Tourkull.

The Russian Government is now devoting great attention to the development of its naval resources on the Siberian coast of the Pacific Ocean, and information has been received from St. Petersburg, that "for the purpose of furthering and developing the Russian naval power in the Pacific Ocean, the administration, building, armament, and fitting out of the fleet and harbours there, are confided to the independent control of the Governor-General of Eastern Siberia."

Another flagrant case of peculation and dishonesty is announced in the person of Colonel von Bronieffsky, Commissary-General of the late Black Sea fleet at Rostow, on the Don, who has been tried for his disgraceful conduct by a court martial, found guilty, and sentenced to be deprived of his commission, nobility, and orders, and degraded to the ranks to serve as a common soldier. The Emperor has confirmed the sentence.

ITALY.
The writer of a letter from Rome states that "his Eminence Cardinal Antonelli and his Holiness, responding to the verbal remonstrances of Count de Rayneval, the French Ambassador, relative to the intention of his Government to withdraw the army of occupation from Rome, said they were of opinion that the Pontifical Government is sufficiently strong to meet any eventuality that might arise. But no one here believes that the Papal Government is capable of any such thing. It is said that a diversity of opinion exists between the Pope and Cardinal Antonelli, his Holiness being in favour of a policy of conciliation while the Cardinal advocates the maintenance of the present severe rule. It is even said that a political amnesty would have been granted had it not been for the opposition of Antonelli."

The frightful condition of the prisoners in the Neapolitan dungeons is again brought before the attention of

the English public by the *Times* correspondent, who writes:—"Of Baron Pœrio I have spoken fully, but not of others, who are labouring under different forms of disease, as Schiavone, who has lost the use of one eye and nearly that of the other; Domo, who has been in the place set aside as the hospital for five months; Pironti, labouring under paralysis, unable to move, and in chains; and not to mention more, a young man of thirty-four, called Alfonso Zeuli, who is dying of consumption from the dampness of his prison, reduced to a skeleton, scarcely able to breathe or to speak; he has had the last sacrament administered to him, and yet he is in chains! No, civilized age or country will ever perhaps have witnessed such a proof of the tenacity of cruelty and vindictiveness. I tell you a fact that cannot be disputed, and, though a thousand other facts equally deplorable are continually occurring, to the ruin of this country, statesmen will wonder at and regret the 'extreme opinions' of the Italians, talk grandiloquently about the 'sacred principle of non-intervention,' and advocate the right of a Sovereign to call in assistance to goad and pen up his cattle. 'O Lord! how long?' well may every Italian exclaim."

Political arrests continue at Ancona. Four English seamen, who had landed at Porto d'Anzio in mistake for Glumicino, have been arrested by the Roman authorities for infringing the police and sanitary regulations. On the representations of the British vice-consul, they were liberated, but not until they had undergone imprisonment for four days, and been kept without food for eighteen hours. Their ship in the meanwhile had sailed.

On the occasion of the distribution of medals to the Sardinian troops returned from the Crimea, the King addressed to the soldiers a speech, in which he remarked:—"You have worthily responded to my expectations as well as to the hopes of the country, and you have justified the confidence of the Allied Powers, who offer to you to-day a solemn acknowledgment of their high opinion. I now receive back your victorious standards, certain that if the interest and the honour of the country oblige me to restore them to you, you will ever and everywhere cover them with fresh glory." These words were hailed with enthusiastic vivats.

Eleven persons are now being tried in Naples, on a charge of conspiring against the Government. They were betrayed nearly a year ago to the authorities by a spy named Domenico Pierro, formerly one of their body. On the receipt of Pierro's information, the police arrested some of the conspirators in a coffee-house, where they met for consultation, and others in their private dwellings. Several forbidden books and seditious foreign journals were likewise seized, and among these were found some letters written in a kind of jargon intelligible to none but the conspirators. The Attorney-General, nevertheless, contrived, after much labour, to interpret them according to his own views, which were to the effect that a new conspiracy was going forward, and that the persons arrested had instigated the populace to rebel against the Government, and had also tried to disaffect the King's troops. Upon the strength of this interpretation, combined with the information of Pierro and two other witnesses, the prisoners are to be tried. When the conspirators were arrested, which took place as long ago as July, 1855, one of them, a man named Mignonna, was subjected to the most insulting and cruel usage. The police officers stripped him, and emulated each other in striking and spitting on him. Being examined before the higher authorities the following day, Mignonna was bound, and received fifty lashes. "An officer, named Quartana," says the *Times* Naples correspondent, "was condemned to receive the same, but the punishment was suspended, as Quartana fainted after undergoing a portion of it. The order had been that all should be beaten. Without light or air, without beds or chairs, they passed many days, until the public hearing of the brutalities exercised towards them, began to murmur, and the drawing up of the *procès* was taken from the hands of Campagna and transferred to those of Nicoletti, the Procurator-General. After eleven months, it has been completed." The trial has been conducted with the manifest injustice and partiality common to despotic states—at least, on the part of the Attorney-General, whose manner is described as brutally insulting; but the bearing of the President Grimaldi is spoken of as remarkably calm, fair, and just.

The arrangement by which the departments of War and Marine in Sardinia were to be divided (General Della Marmora taking the War portfolio, and General Durando retaining that of Marine) has not been entirely carried out. General Durando leaves the Ministry, and retires to the country. General Serra is to be placed at the head of the Marine.

The Baron Kibeck, Austrian Minister Resident in Switzerland, has been named Vice-President of the Lieutenantancy of Lombardy, with permission to return to the diplomatic service. From various circumstances, this is thought to indicate on the part of Austria a disposition towards a reconciliation with Sardinia.

TURKEY.
Great coolness exists between the Sultan and Said Pacha, Viceroy of Egypt, and the spirits of the latter are very low. All communication between him and the Porte seems to be suspended. It is thought that the Viceroy will be accused of having fomented the late disturbances in Syria; but it is considered by some ex-

ceedingly doubtful whether he had any connexion with those outbreaks. It is regarded, however, as significant of the Sultan's displeasure that, while the Tunisian troops have been thanked for their services in the late war, the Egyptian contingent has not received any encomiums, though the number of men was greater than those from Tunis, and the services rendered were quite as remarkable.

The Russians have blown up the citadel of Kars. Bayazid is evacuated, and the commercial road to Persia is open.

Aali Pacha has arrived at Vienna. The great Mahometan feast, the Bairam, has just been celebrated at Constantinople with unusual splendour, owing to the conclusion of peace. On this occasion, several Christians were permitted to kiss the Sultan's hand.

The Council of State, with regard to the recruiting of the Christians, has decreed that a sum of money may be paid in lieu of serving, in order to relieve the penury of the Treasury.

BELGIUM.
The printer of the Brussels journal *La Nation* has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment, 1000*f.* fine, and costs, for a libellous article against the Duchess of Brabant.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.
A disturbance has taken place between some of the Austrian troops in Wallachia and the national militia, owing to the Austrians demanding the use of certain waggons which the Wallachians refused to let them have. Several of the combatants were wounded; but no lives were lost.

DENMARK.
The treaty of commerce between Denmark and the United States (says a correspondent of the *Daily News*) having expired on the 14th inst., the first American vessel that appeared in the Sound since that event was the Sarah Bryant, Captain Gellerson, bound from Cronstadt to New York, with a cargo of Russian produce. She paid the Sound Dues, but under protest.

SPAIN.
The Spanish Government, by a majority of only eleven votes, has been authorized in suppressing the political clubs established in several of the provinces by the party called the "Puros." Some of Espartero's former supporters voted against the Government; and the schism is said to be ominous of ministerial troubles.

GREECE.
Brigandage has increased to such an extent that the country may be said to be in a state of anarchy. On the high road to the Piræus, at ten minutes' distance from Athens, twelve robbers attacked the diligence, and carried off eight passengers as prisoners. In consequence of the general insecurity of the country, it is proposed to proclaim martial law. The brigands are in Athens itself.

The *Moniteur Grec* denies the account published by the *Morning Post*, that Lord Palmerston had been burnt in effigy, and states that this is not the first time that journal has been led into error by its correspondent.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.
The *Argo*, steam transport, has been run down near Constantinople by a French line-of-battle ship. No lives were lost, though the *Argo* was so fearfully injured that it was at first thought she would go down. Carelessness on the part of the French ship, in not keeping a better look-out, and putting her helm the wrong way when the collision was imminent, are alleged as the causes of the disaster.—Her Majesty's ship *Leopard*, with 1500 Turkish troops on board, ran into some vessels in the Golden Horn, and severely injured them. The *Leopard* itself sustained considerable damage, and several persons were wounded. A man of the Land Transport Corps was knocked down by the collision, and, when asked whether he was hurt, replied, "One thing is certain, I have broken my pipe; but I think I have broken my arm and leg likewise." This proved to be the case.

THE GRENADIERS FROM THE CRIMEA.—Mr. Russell, writing from the camp before Sebastopol on the 6th inst., says:—"The Grenadiers marched off this morning, shortly before seven o'clock, amid the cheers of their comrades. It is a beautiful day, and the men will have a fine march to Kazatch. There are no further regiments announced for embarkation, in general orders."

THE RETURN OF THE TROOPS.—Large numbers of soldiers are constantly arriving from the Crimea, whence all have now departed.

THE RIF PIRATES.—The bark *Hymen*, from Liverpool, was boarded on the 14th of May, off the coast of Cape Tres Forcas, by from seventeen to twenty-five men, armed with pistols, dirks, &c., who plundered the bark, carried off the owner and crew, and detained them twenty days, during which time they were kept on a very small allowance of barley bread and brackish water. They were marched into the interior, almost barefooted, and under a burning sun, with scarcely any water to quench their thirst. Ultimately, they were relieved in a wretched condition by her Majesty's steamers *Ariel* and *Retribution*, from the officers and crews of which they received the greatest kindness.

THE MILITIA.—The various militia regiments are now being rapidly disbanded.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—The Queen, accompanied by Prince Albert, Prince Frederick William of Prussia, the Regent of Baden, the Princess Royal, and the Princess Alice, visited the camp at Aldershot on Monday.—The Queen gave a State Ball on Tuesday evening at Buckingham Palace, when General Williams was introduced to her Majesty.

INUNDATIONS IN FRANCE.—Her Majesty and Prince Albert have testified their sympathy for the sufferers by the late inundations in France by forwarding to the Lord Mayor donations of 1000*l.* and 500*l.* respectively, in aid of the fund now being raised at the Mansion-house for their relief.

THE PRINCE OF WALES, with his tutor, Mr. Gibbs, was seated on the bench at the Central Criminal Court during a part of Tuesday.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MAJOR THOMPSON.—The remains of this lamented and gallant young officer were laid in their last resting place at Brompton Cemetery on Tuesday, at twelve p.m. The funeral, which was a strictly private one, was only attended by the personal friends of the deceased and his family. Among those who attended at his family residence in Gloucester-street and joined the procession, were Lord Panmure, General Sir Fenwick Williams, Sir Benjamin Hawes, Lieutenant-Colonel Lake, Major Teesdale, &c.

LOCAL CHARGES UPON SHIPPING.—The committee met again on Monday, when Mr. Shuttleworth, in continuing his evidence in defence of the corporation, replied to certain complaints that had been made. "It had been said that the dock committee paid a large sum towards the expense of police. They did so; but it was for special services rendered by the police in protecting valuable property on the several docks, in the same way as the police are paid for similar services by the railway companies. The payments for watching and lighting certain streets were also for the protection of their own property." As to the purchases of land on Wallasey Pool, Mr. Shuttleworth read various documents to show that it was not, as asserted, to prevent the formation of docks there that the corporation made the purchase in question; and, with regard to the purchase of the Birkenhead Docks, this, he said, was a necessary expenditure to provide for the commerce of the Mersey.

THE SOUND DUES.—The Committee for considering these dues met on Tuesday, and examined Mr. Edgar Bowring, Registrar of the Board of Trade, who gave several historical particulars with reference to the impost. The Committee then adjourned.

FRIGHTFUL DEATH.—A man engaged in painting a house at Hartlepool slipped from the ladder, and fell upon the railings below, on the sharp points of which he was literally impaled. He died almost directly.

MR. CRAMPTON arrived in London on Monday, and had an interview with the Earl of Clarendon. He also paid a visit to the Premier.

DR. T. S. HOLLAND, who returned only last Saturday from Renkioi Hospital, where he was assistant physician, died suddenly in London, from an epileptic attack, during last Monday night.

LEICESTER ELECTION.—Mr. John Biggs, the late Mayor of the town, has been elected, without opposition, for Leicester.

LORD GOUGH has just distributed in the Crimea the insignia of the Order of the Bath to the French and English Generals and superior officers upon whom the honour has been conferred by the Queen.

SUSPICIOUS DEATH.—The body of Mrs. McKnight, the wife of a Dumfriesshire gentleman lately staying at Ben Rhydding, has been discovered in a ravine near Ilkley, with marks of violence which render it probable that she has been murdered.

THE INUNDATIONS IN FRANCE.—A town's meeting has taken place at Liverpool, to express sympathy with the sufferers by the French inundations, and to inaugurate a subscription.

THE LATE JOSEPH HUME.—The City of London meeting in furtherance of the memorial to the late Joseph Hume, will be held at the Mansion-house, on Friday, June 27th, 1856, at twelve for one o'clock precisely. The Lord Mayor has consented to preside.

STRIKE ON RAILWAY PORTERS.—The porters and clerks belonging to the goods department of the London and North-Western Railway are now out on strike. They complain of a reduction of their wages and of the economical tendencies of Mr. Carter, the goods manager, whose dismissal they demand. The company refuses to agree.—A movement is going on among the Preston weavers for an advance of wages; but they have not yet resorted to a strike, though this is threatened.

SATURDAY HALF-HOLIDAY.—Messrs. W. H. Smith, the well-known news-agents, have arranged to give the clerks in their establishment the advantage of the Saturday half-holiday, by dividing them into two brigades, to take the half-holiday alternately. They have issued a circular announcing this intention, and we hope the trade will not be slow to follow the example of "the princely house."

THE REV. THOMAS PALMER.—The following letter appears in the daily papers:—"Sir, I beg to inform you, and also the public generally, that I am not the author of the pamphlet called 'A Letter to the Lord Chief Justice Campbell, containing Remarks upon the

Conduct of the Prosecution and the Judges; with Strictures on the Charge delivered to the Jury, illustrative of its dangerous Tendencies of the long-enjoyed Rights and Privileges of Englishmen; nor was the same published with my sanction or authority. Yours obediently, THOMAS PALMER, brother of the unfortunate William Palmer."

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK.—In the week that ended last Saturday, the total number of deaths registered was 1027. In the corresponding weeks of ten years, 1846-55, the average number was 930, which, for the sake of comparison, should be raised according to increase of population, and in this case will become 1023. The actual number agrees closely with the result obtained by calculation; and it may be affirmed that the health of London, if not better, is also not worse, than might be expected at this healthy season of the year.—Last week, the births of 823 boys and 749 girls, in all 1572 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55, the average number was 1372.—From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.

PRINCE NAPOLEON has arrived in the North of England.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE FOUNTAINS.—The grand water-works in the Sydenham Gardens were opened on Wednesday evening, at five o'clock, in the presence of the Queen, Prince Albert, and their royal guests. The effect was magnificent; and "no better idea," says a contemporary, "can be given of the magnitude of this magnificent series of fountains and their combined effect, which far excel those of Versailles, than by stating the fact that, when they are in full operation, 11,788 jets are playing, and that the quantity of water displayed simultaneously in them is about 120,000 gallons per minute."

A DOOMED HOUSE.—A calamity even more distressing than that which recently afflicted the Dean of Carlisle has occurred in the family of the Rev. Mr. Cwyther (brother of Lord Milford). The whole of his children, a son and four daughters, were swept away by scarlet fever in less than a week. The son was heir presumptive to the extensive estates of Picton Castle.

THE NEW CLEY CEMETERY.—The table of board fees on interments in the cemetery at Ilford having been duly promulgated and approved by the Home Secretary, the City Court of Sewers has ordered that the part of the cemetery not proposed to be consecrated be opened for interments forthwith.

THE PARISH OF ST. PANCRAS has rejected, by a large majority, the application of the Public Libraries Act.

GOLD ROBBERY.—A rumour has reached Southampton by the West India mail steamer La Plata that the greater portion of the gold which was missing by the Solent, and which had been exchanged for shot, &c., has been recovered. The delinquents were detected at Carthage, at which place the robbery is supposed to have taken place, and the weight of the precious metal restored is said to be above one hundred pounds.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL ABROAD held its annual meeting on Wednesday, when the Archbishop of Canterbury presided, and Mr. Gladstone was among the speakers.

NATIONAL ORPHAN SCHOOL.—The Duke of Cambridge will lay the first stone of the building to be erected for the use of this institution, on the 2nd of July. The asylum was established, in 1849, as the Cholera Orphan Home; but has attained such a development that it promises to become, what its name implies, a National Institution.

NARROW ESCAPE OF SIGNOR MARIO.—During the performance of the last scene of *Il Trovatore*, at the Lyceum Theatre, a few evenings ago, the rope from the flies, sustaining a heavy iron candelabrum, weighing upwards of ten pounds, suddenly snapped, and the machine, descending like a shot from a cannon, fell on the stage, glancing along the person of Signor Mario, and breaking into fragments at his feet.

SUICIDE AT DOVER.—An elderly gentleman, who was not known, and who has not since been identified, has destroyed himself by leaping off Shakespeare's Cliff, Dover. His body was found by some seamen; it was quite shapeless, and all the features were utterly obliterated. A gentleman, whose appearance corresponded with the description given of the dead man, was previously seen by the wife of one of the coast-guard walking up to a spot on the cliff where an alpaca umbrella was afterwards found, and where he suddenly disappeared.

THE CASE OF MR. COOKSEY.—This gentleman has written to us to complain that, although we noticed, in January, 1855, the granting of a rule for a criminal information against him, we have omitted all reference to the recent fact of Sir Frederick Thesiger, on the part of the plaintiff, consenting to the rule being discharged with costs, or rather applying to the Court of Queen's Bench for permission to do so, on account of the affidavits which the Attorney-General was about to read in Mr. Cooksey's behalf being such as must inevitably have resulted in the discharge of the rule. Mr. Cooksey also encloses a printed document, from which it appears that a large and influential meeting, held in the town-hall of Camden, has presented a testimonial to him in proof of its high esteem and repudiation of the charges brought against him.—The omission of reference in these columns to the facts mentioned by Mr. Cooksey

was purely accidental, and we are therefore glad to have an opportunity of repairing what might otherwise seem like injustice; but we must protest against the tone of Mr. Cooksey's communication, in which he implies that the latter part of the case was omitted because it was "less piquant" than the first part. The *Leader* seeks faithfully and fairly to reflect the facts of the day, and not to find matter for "piquant" paragraphs. While asking for redress, Mr. Cooksey might as well have adopted a courteous interpretation of the error.

STATE OF TRADE.—The reports from the manufacturing towns for the week ending last Saturday indicate little alteration in the state of trade. At Manchester, the market was heavy at the commencement, but it ultimately acquired steadiness, and quotations are unchanged.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, June 21.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).

MR. CHICHESTER FORTESCUE gave the terms of the motion he meant to postpone on Monday evening, with a view to rescinding the decision the House came to, on Mr. WALPOLE's motion on Tuesday last, on National Education in Ireland.

THE GUARDS FROM THE CRIMEA.

In answer to Mr. BARING, Lord PALMERSTON said the entrance of the Guards into London on their return from the Crimea would be so arranged as to enable the public to see their entry, and they would afterwards be reviewed in Hyde Park.

THE CASE OF FOSCHINI.

Mr. BOWYER gave a history of the easy escape of Foschini, and urged that it was owing to a conspiracy got up by a party of Italian refugees in this country, connected with Mazzini, and that no reward could induce any of his countrymen to give information with regard to the assassin; as they would have fallen victims to the organized society of Red Republican Italians which exists in London. Sir GEORGE GREY declined to enter into any of the alleged facts mentioned by Mr. Bowyer. He would only say that every effort was made by the police, both in London and at the outposts, to arrest Foschini.

REDUCTION OF OFFICERS OF THE ARMY.

In answer to Lord HOTHAM, Mr. FREDERICK PEEL said that there would be the usual reduction of officers to the peace establishment in all regiments in the army, and those selected for reduction would be the junior officers.

THE DESPATCH OF MR. MARCY.

Mr. GLADSTONE inquired when the answer of the Government to Mr. Marcy's despatch intimating the dismissal of Mr. Crampton would be laid on the table of the House? He hoped it would be at as early a period as possible.—Lord PALMERSTON said that he had no doubt he should be able to produce the despatch and the answer to it in the course of next week.

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON thought that until that despatch was produced it would be better to postpone the discussion on the Enlistment Question; but he hoped that that discussion would ere long be brought on.—After a few remarks by Sir GEORGE GREY, Mr. G. H. MOORE said he should postpone his motion until after the production of the despatch in question, but he thought some early and definite time should be fixed for that discussion.

The orders of the day were then proceeded with.

FRANCE.

Another change has taken place in the weather. Accounts from the south speak vaguely of disastrous floods in the districts round the Garonne, and it is reported that the Emperor has left for Toulouse.

STABBING A HUSBAND.—Mary Jones, a dissipated woman, was charged yesterday, at Marlborough-street, with stabbing her husband in the eye with a knife. She was bound over to keep the peace for three months.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT (YESTERDAY).—William May was acquitted on the charge of inducing a woman to drown herself from London Bridge.—George Frederick Lillycrop was declared Not Guilty on an indictment for feloniously embezzling and appropriating to his own use certain moneys and goods, after an adjudication of bankruptcy had taken place, such moneys and goods then being the property of his assignees.—Charles Christian Müller and William Foster were found Guilty of procuring the engraving of a copper plate for forging the notes of a Swedish Joint Stock Bank. Sentence was deferred.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY.—Two cases came before the magistrates, yesterday, of highway robbery with violence—the one in Westminster in broad daylight, the other in St. Pancras at night. The accused in the first case was remanded; in the latter, sent for trial.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Return of admissions for six days ending Friday, June 20th, 1856: number admitted, including season-ticket holders, 44,158.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication. During the Session of Parliament it is often impossible to find room for correspondence, even the briefest.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1856.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—DR. ARNOLD.

DEFEAT OF GOVERNMENT ON THE AMERICAN POLICY.

If our readers bear in mind what we have said on the subject of America, they will understand how we have arrived at the present situation, and they will perceive that the apparent closing of the most dangerous complications, instead of allaying public vigilance, should arouse new suspicions, and ought, if possible, to induce a more concentrated action on the part of the public. We have stated that the condition of our affairs in America was veiled by systematic misrepresentations; we have told our readers that it was impossible for Mr. CRAMPTON to remain after he had placed himself in so false a position; we have warned them that our Government was not prepared to meet the necessities of the case, and that it would treat the American Government as an enemy which might be outwitted or put down in open contest; and that through this misconceived policy of our high officials, who look down upon the middle-class statesmen of America, we were in danger of seeing the intercourse between the two countries disturbed by war. We now point for corroboration to the official papers from America, and to the proceedings in Parliament. The affidavits, the transactions at the Consulates in New York, Philadelphia, and Cincinnati, the direct evidence of eminent Americans who are above suspicion, prove that Mr. CRAMPTON was in constant communication with the Consuls, the subordinate agents, and the officers of the Legion who were collecting recruits for the Legion, both before and after the first explanations of our Government. We said that in all probability STROBEL was a spy in the Russian service, who had entered into the service of the energetic but indiscreet JOSEPH HOWE for the express purpose of extorting money and getting the British into difficulties. We find this distinctly made out in the American official papers. We said that under these circumstances the American Government could not retract, and could not permit Mr. CRAMPTON to remain; that the explanations from St. James's did not touch the question of his mere personal conduct. At the end of last week it was thought Ministers would retaliate by dismissing Mr. DALLAS, the last step before a total interruption of friendly relations, and the commencement of hostile relations. We point to the inspired columns of the *Times* and *Morning Post* for evidence that down to a very late hour of last week the official idea was that Mr. DALLAS should be dismissed—that friendly relations with America should be broken off. We were

then, even at that moment, on the verge of a much more serious situation.

What prevented our Ministers from proceeding in that rash and destructive course? The utmost exertions had been used through the journals of the largest circulation to spread a one-sided account of the American proceedings, so as to represent Mr. CRAMPTON as faultless, Mr. PIERCE as swayed entirely by base motives, and our Government as bound to stand firm in defence of the national honour. The means for diffusing more correct information were indeed few. We well know what exertions were thrown upon individuals, in order to make men really anxious for the honour and welfare of this country cognizant of the true state of the case. Weak as these means were, the truth prevailed with the genuine people. As soon as the real state of the risk was understood,—as soon as it appeared to be the fact that our communication with America might be cut short by an official war,—that the duties which we have to perform in Europe,—that the payment of a debt to Sardinia, and the resistance against Austrian aggression as well as Russian might be interrupted by this wanton quarrel between England and America,—the true representatives of the people, in city and county, began to move. Men who have at heart the maintenance of something like truth in Parliament began to make inquiries. The Whig leader, who is untrammelled by office, took up the post of public spokesman for the occasion.

But what made Lord JOHN RUSSELL take that post on Friday night, and again on Monday? It was the knowledge that in standing up against a wanton war with America, a wicked violation of brotherhood, a reckless destruction of British as well as American commerce, and an abandonment of our duties on the continent of Europe, he was giving voice to the sentiments of the great public of this country. What is more, his doing so constituted a great fact in evidence that such was the public feeling. Ministers were no longer able to stand against the weight of that evidence. A Cabinet Council was held on Saturday. On Monday they announced that Mr. DALLAS would not be dismissed, that friendly communications would not be broken off; and they added, on being pressed, that the instructions to our naval force in Central America are not such as would lead to immediate hostilities.

But, we say, it is no time for the public to lay aside its vigilance or its action. The naval instructions, said Lord Palmerston, relate to the protection of British interests, of British subjects, and of British property; and there is nothing in those instructions which would tend to a collision between the British and American forces. But it would not be difficult for some audacious naval commander to find opportunities of firing off powder and shot in the "protection of British interests." Ministers must be made to feel that they will be responsible for every act of those armed sailors whom they have sent into that hazardous quarter.

Besides, in this new course Ministers are reluctant; they have been forced into it; they will depart from it as soon as they can; they will frustrate it as much as they can; they will obey reason in this question of America only so far as they are compelled by the public, from day to day, from act to act. Instead, therefore, of laying aside vigilance and action, the public, rather encouraged than lulled by the success of the intervention thus far, should get itself some better instruments for giving its action a more concentrated effect, and for posting sentinels to watch over the enemy in Downing-street.

THE WARNING FROM KARS.

"Woe to the nation that forgets the military art! Woe to that nation who heaps up riches, but who does not take the precaution to defend them!" These are the words which General WILLIAMS, returning from his chivalrous imprisonment, utters to the country that welcomes him home. Few men have so recently tested the bitterness of war, few men have witnessed its real working so clearly, few men have had such strong occasion to know the force of the words which they were uttering.

We hear peace hailed on all sides—not because it is the re-establishment of justice, and the settled order in which unruly spirits have been compelled to move, but because there is to be an absolute cessation of arms. We are to leave the activities of the field for perfect repose, and we are to trust—Heaven knows how—to some arts of civilization. "Woe to the nation that heaps up riches, and neglects the means to defend them," says Sir WILLIAM; and he saw with his own eyes what is the state of that country which possesses wealth, but not the means of self-defence. In no part of the world would that state of things be more visible than in Turkey, where the Pachas collect masses of wealth, but where the miserable inhabitants were exposed to the inroads of the enemy.

Nay, worse: from a neglect of their military organization and guidance, the Turks had actually been exposed to the presumption that their courage was entirely corrupted away, and that they had become a nation of cowards. Sir WILLIAM rallied them to the combat, and they proved able to withstand one of the most powerful nations in the world.

We are told that war entails the calamities of death, and deprives families of their best spirits. Sir WILLIAM uttered the words we have quoted in direct reference to a loss of this kind. Amongst the men come home from Kars, was Captain HENRY THOMPSON, who arrived only in time to receive the welcome homage of his countrymen, and then to die in the arms of his mother. No bereavement could be more complete than such a loss; and yet Sir WILLIAM is no doubt right in declaring that if the country required it, many mothers would repeat the gift which poor Mrs. THOMPSON has made to her country, and give up the sons upon whom all their hopes in this world depend. And woe to the country indeed if its matrons were content to tie the young manhood of England to the apron-string of its womanhood. How much would the power of life, the enjoyment of life, the real amount of life, decline within the land!

War, we are told, is a scourge to the country; but the true scourge of every country consists in those vices and corruptions which creep in during periods of repose and prosperity. Might not a WILLIAM PALMER have been saved—might not his victims, and those more miserable creatures his accomplices, have been saved—if he had been called to a manlier field than that of pottering over pretended studies in a dissipated city, or dabbling in so-called manly sports in not less dissipated provincial towns? Look at our law courts—look at the disclosures of our merchants—to tell us the state of society and of commerce. If there is a feeling of some generous sympathy displayed by a community, it is brought out by the sense of alliance on the field of battle. Witness the contribution made by London City to our allies the French in their adversity.

Not long since two men were seen walking together in Berlin—they were WILLIAMS and MOUHAFFEE, the two who for months had been engaged in a manly contest to van-

quish each other. The English were beaten; but they had surmounted difficulties so great that the enemy himself recognized their defeat as equal to a conquest. And what did the high-minded, generous victor do? He came amongst them as a friend; he entered Kars to feed and clothe the half-starved and half-clothed army; to minister to those in whom famine had sown the seeds of disease; to speed the officers on the way towards their home, and to harbour them in the meanwhile as brother is harboured by brother. And who was that man that of all our enemies in the late war displayed the most generous and chivalrous nobility? It was precisely the one who had gained the most decisive victory over the English.

Who amongst all our officers, speaking before the nation, has most endured the hardships of war? Was it one of those gentlemen who carried couches, pier-glasses, dressing-boxes, and shower-baths for their tents in the Crimea? Was it one of those who, after a brief residence in that uncomfortable district, came home on "urgent private affairs?" No; it was Sir WILLIAM WILLIAMS OF KARS, who was responsible for the command of an army after it appeared to be deserted by its own Government, and its own allies; who maintained a position against an overwhelming force for months; who kept his men to their duties until they could no longer lift hand for the weakness of famine; and who actually surrendered the city to the enemy without a mutiny amongst his men, or an act of violence on the part of the enemy. If any man had experienced the hardships of war amongst us all it is General WILLIAMS; and it is he who repeats to us the warning which we have repeated throughout the war, and before the war began:—"I have passed through armed Europe, and I take this earliest opportunity of uttering a warning to those who forget the military art."

DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES.

PALMER "did not poison COOKE with strychnine;" with what, then, did he do it? Who can tell us? We have destroyed the only witness who could have enlightened us in the matter—PALMER himself. What a book would have been "The Autobiography of William Palmer; with all the Particulars of" &c. How it would have sold! Not because it would have been amusing. The lives of excessive scoundrels never are. Men become scoundrels because they have few ideas, and none of the best.

PALMER, with his large sense of animal enjoyment, his secretiveness, his imperfect reflection, must have had very faint motives to make anything like a confession. Why should he? Its only effect could be to injure his little son "WILLIE," and his best feelings would tell him to suppress anything of the kind. As to the benefit which he could confer on society, the light which he could throw upon the temptations to crime, and upon the facilities afforded to it in our elaborate civilization, what would he care for that? There could be no kind of object presented to the mind of such a man which would be worth attaining by confession. He died, therefore, silent and reserved, in striving to mislead the comprehension of his fellow creatures by the prevarication about strychnine.

What effect, then, is the treatment of this man likely to have upon others of his class, or upon other natures of a very different kind, which might nevertheless be drawn into the crimes of forgery and murder for the sake of acquisition? To the brutally vigorous, like himself, the example must be one of very slightly deterrent power. PALMER

was of a gambling genus; he was prepared to play very high stakes; indeed, like the Chinese, he would stake himself, his wife, and family in a cock-fight. He literally followed that example. His incentive in such reckless sports was derived from the fact that the acquisitions were immediate and probable, and that the chance of loss, though it involved absolute destruction, was remote, and only as one to ten. Ten to one on PALMER might have been his bet. When the penalty does come, it is short and sharp, and not much more difficult to be borne than the drawing of a tooth. It is evident that down to the very last PALMER calculated upon a release. He still hoped that "something would turn up." The gambling spirit supported him until the very noose was round his neck: but he is only a type of the men of his own class that are not likely to be more moved while the noose is round their necks; and still less likely is the noose to have any terrors to them while it is distant. Such men will perceive in his story how many chances there are of winning. Even the more timid, who share the gambling spirit, will learn from his experience that with the actual state of society, and the very imperfect hold that the law has over those who can pay for evading it, there are more than nine chances of winning against one of losing: are they not safe then in enjoying only nine chances?

It is not only capital punishment which is somewhat discredited by the whole of these transactions. We see that the plan of strangling a man must have very small terrors for the class that deserves strangling; that it cuts us off from a mass of evidence which would instruct us in the treatment of this class, and also it cuts short what might be made a real example. Let us suppose that, instead of being strangled, PALMER had been placed at hard work in public, where he could have been frequently and freely seen; always under the eye of some intelligent and active-minded man, who could have learned from him his past life. Let us suppose that the circumstances attending his imprisonment should have been such as to induce him to confess; and that his labour might have been modified according to his conduct. Let us suppose also that the proceeds of his labour should be devoted, in some indirect way, to compensate for the injuries that he had occasioned—paid, for example, towards a charitable fund in the neighbourhood distinguished by his crimes; those crimes being commemorated by the fact of the annual payment. What in such cases would be taught to the classes who would imitate PALMER? Would there not be before them a much more glaring example of inevitable disclosure, of compensation by labour—that thing which they hate; and of frustration by the regorging of their gains? It appears to us that such a treatment of a man like PALMER, however unsatisfactory it might be for the moment to the vindictive passions of the unreflecting, would be far more instructive both to the class which needs protection and to the class which needs control.

As it is, his fate tells them that they must run the risk, as the mariner does of one single shipwreck, as the soldier of a single bullet, which may terminate their career; but that by perseverance they may succeed in winning mostly and in concealing always. All PALMER's crimes are buried with him. If he did not poison COOKE by strychnine, it is more than probable that by other means he poisoned ANNE PALMER and WALTER PALMER. There are several of his acknowledged children unaccounted for; four illegitimate children have died; no really satisfactory account has ever been given of the

death of BLADON, the commercial traveller, who died under PALMER's hands; the mother-in-law, the uncle, and a gardener named ABLEY, of whom PALMER had borrowed 100*l.*, are amongst his friends and connexions, respecting whom he could probably have told us interesting particulars.

But besides these instances, he had also another fund of knowledge to bestow upon the world. We believe that those are right who declare that the man was not "deep,"—that his intellect was very poor, and that he was a very indifferent student in his own profession. But one branch of it he had evidently studied with assiduity, probably with the enthusiasm of love—the use of poisons; and if he had studied the use of poisons he had no doubt studied the composition of poisons. Homœopaths tell us that by a peculiar handling of drugs, their virtues can be brought out into much greater activity. The preparation of the human body by one drug, will render another much more effective. This is well known in the ordinary practice of curative medicine, and PALMER, who was so earnest a student in anti-curative medicine, had probably tested the principle in that branch also. How much light could he have thrown upon the weapons by which the jealous wife, the wearied husband, the greedy heir, or the speculator in insurance, can work out his ends. Far more instructive would it have been for the world, if, instead of bringing his epic to a sudden conclusion before the gaol at Stafford, he had been made to work out another volume of autobiography in the presence of the public, while contributing from time to time materials for a retrospective volume.

THE ROEBUCK UNION.

THE Administrative Reformers are once more in the field. They have the advantage of being led by a man of capacity and position, who is thoroughly in earnest, who understands the arts of political agitation, who possesses some parliamentary influence, and who, as a Liberal, is known and trusted. The Association, therefore, gains by the chairmanship of Mr. ROEBUCK; but we are at a loss to see what Mr. ROEBUCK gains by the Chairmanship of the Association. He believes that it may be galvanized into a second life, that it may work a change in the government of this country, that it may create a power in the Legislature favourable to reform. Its course, however, has been wrong from the beginning, and we are partly led to question the success of Mr. ROEBUCK's plans, by the omission from his statement of all reference to the causes of the original failure. He assigns certain reasons, it is true, for that unmistakable collapse; but the City Reformers broke down, in reality, on account of their want of knowledge, skill, liberality, courage, aptitude for organization,—of every quality, indeed, that is necessary to give aim and force to a public movement. They proved their want of knowledge by attempting to weld Toryism with Liberalism, as an instrument of Reform, by conceiving that a change of the administrative system could be effected without a change of public policy, by leaving the groundwork of improvement out of sight, by pretending to direct the Government in the choice of ministers and officials, and by excluding members of Parliament from their Association. Their want of skill was exhibited by the utter failure of their efforts to produce a general and systematic agitation, though this was partly attributable, also, to their want of liberality. They affected exclusiveness; they insulted the older, and less pretentious societies that offered to correspond with them; they fixed

a high price for seats at their Council Board; they encouraged no co-operation except on the part of their own favourites. Then, they disappointed their supporters by avowals of timidity. The idea of Parliamentary Reform was rejected; they appealed to no large or formidable principles; they diluted all their professions by disowning every proposal of political change. Add to this, that they never possessed an organization, that at their third meeting the public unequivocally evinced its want of interest or of confidence, and it is not difficult to understand how this Association, illustrated for a moment by the excitement of the Sebastopol outcry, went out, soon after, like a lamp in a vault. It proposed nothing complete, and it did nothing well. It was forgotten until, a few days since, the ROEBUCK manifesto appeared. Public curiosity has given it a little life, and the City meeting to-day may be, in appearance, successful.

But has Mr. ROEBUCK provided in the restored association new means and new methods? Does he propose to eliminate the objectionable rules which made the body from the first unpopular? No trace of such a change is yet discernible. Mr. MOBLEY, who failed—Mr. TRAVERS, who failed—Mr. GASSIOT, who failed—are again the leaders of the organization, only they have chosen that Mr. ROEBUCK shall lead them. They may blunder less and move more rapidly under his leadership than before; but they are not the men to inspire the Liberal party with confidence, to impress the country, or to influence the House of Commons. Their organization, moreover, appears too formal, is exposed to ridicule, resembles the constitution of a debating society. Besides, it does not correct one evil of which the real Reformers throughout England complained. We know accurately enough what were the feelings with which the Liberal members of the House of Commons, and the principal members of the party outside that House, regarded the Administrative Reform Association as at first constituted. They looked upon it as a bubble, partly patriotic, partly vulgar, the organ of a passing excitement, which, at setting out, lost its way, proved its weakness, and made itself ridiculous. No ardent, masculine spirit was manifested. In fact, politicians looked on the Association with a kind of sympathetic contempt. What are their opinions now? Precisely the same. They admire the enthusiasm of Mr. ROEBUCK, who has promulgated his declaration of policy with almost juvenile ostentation; who talks largely about a party in the House of Commons; who assigns to Messrs. MOBLEY, TRAVERS, and GASSIOT their official places with the pomp of a First Minister; and hopes to convert the Band of City Reformers into a machinery for altering and improving the entire governmental system in England. If we understood how it was possible to reanimate the Association as its actual basis, and with its actual principles, we should wish all conceivable success to Mr. ROEBUCK. But will the great body of subscribers continue their support for another year? If we are not mistaken, some have already withdrawn; others propose to withdraw; and it is not likely that many will step forward to supply the vacancies. It has become a pretty general opinion, that the Association is not only a useless deception, but a positive evil. Its weakness engenders apathy. It discourages the union of liberal men for political purposes. It seems to indicate that public agitation is an obsolete remedy, that union is no longer strength, and that political reform is not the true object of reformers.

Where is the Financial Reform Associa-

tion, which began its career with tracts, lectures, corresponding secretaries, and statistics? Extinct? No; worse than extinct; because it occupies the ground, and concentrates in its own torpid obscurity all that is political in many minds. So with the Administrative Reformers. Capable, in numerous instances, of exhibiting a public spirit in only one form, they are content with subscribing to the funds of the Association, attending its general meetings, and supposing themselves influential. Whereas, the Association being destitute of intellect and energy, their good will, and whatever sacrifices they make, are thrown away. Better have no Liberal organization at all than an organization that is ineffective.

These observations apply, of course, to the past career of the City Reformers. While Mr. MOBLEY was chairman, their case grew more hopeless from day to day. There was an intention to agitate at the next general meeting in favour of new men and of a new system. What we complain of is, that Mr. ROEBUCK's programme does not imply, necessarily, a new system, while it commits the Association, to a large extent, to the guidance of the very individuals whose political incapacity has been so indubitably proved. Perhaps he could not, as a matter of personal feeling, assign to his discarded predecessor the position of a mere subscriber or committee-man; but in whose power did it lie to appoint the Finance, Statistical, and Corresponding Secretaries? Were they named by the Council, or by the General Committee? Are the elections of members of the Council and of the Committee to be regulated by new rules? Is 50% to confer on the subscriber the right to a seat at the Council, or are the members to be chosen for their fitness? This may be treated as a point of detail, but it involves the very principle for which Mr. ROEBUCK and the reformers contend. It is a scandal that the Administrative Reform Association should sell its honours.

The fate of the Association, however, is not purely attributable to the ignorance or weakness of its members, but to the general apathy of the nation, which has surrendered political science as the privilege of a class. Had the public at large been earnest or vigorous, the Association could not have stultified itself, as it did in the second month of its existence. But the result of every political union has been uniform during the last ten years. The public has supplied it with the means of life, and has left it alone to degenerate into a private committee. When this indifference has ceased to congeal the blood of the nation, we may have real reform; but, until then, Liberals like Mr. ROEBUCK may pant at the head of exhausted associations, and try to chafe them into energy.

MORE DARK HINTS.

To increase the political mystification amid which we live, a semi-official journal has published some peculiar views of Italian affairs. It is a fallacy, however, to suppose that the journal in question represents, in every instance, the opinions or the intentions of Lord PALMERSTON. Its most positive statements with reference to the American dispute were entirely groundless. It averred that the dismissal of Mr. CRAMPTON would be followed, instantly, by the dismissal of Mr. DALLAS. That at once disproves its official authenticity. It indicates, probably, the feelings and desires of a Cabinet, or part of a Cabinet, but not the English, though the intimate relation that now exists between the French Embassy and the British Foreign-office may imply Lord PALMERSTON's assent to the infamous libel which, last week, astonished and disgusted every friend of Italy.

The writer declared that the dissatisfaction and restlessness at present visible in Italy were kept up solely by a class of petty half-ruined merchants, penniless advocates, greedy clerks, beggars, and convicted attorneys, or attorneys deserving to be convicted. The evil of this condition of affairs being manifest, some immediate remedy is essential. What remedy? The strong hand of Austria, to which is naturally confided the high mission of saving and regenerating Italy.

That is the shameful statement, stamped with semi-official authority. Of course it is copied with malevolent accuracy, from the political journals in the pay of the Austrian Government, the organs of systematic falsification, which are nowhere contradicted, except by the discreet and cautious Liberal press of Sardinia. But is it necessary that any English politician should be reminded of the history of the Italian States during the present century? Who were the men that defended the Neapolitan Republic in 1789, that fought in the Italian revolutions of 1820, 1821, 1831, 1837, 1841, 1845, 1848, 1849? Of whom are the Italians proud, if not of their compatriots who have been destroyed by the axe, or by military executions, or by the wasting misery of the prisons? Who are they who now crowd the galleys, or live in exile, deprived of their estates? The English Government itself has repeatedly avowed its sympathy with the Liberal party in Italy—the party that keeps up discontent, that agitates the nation against its foreign rulers. But it suffers this sort of calumny to be circulated in its name. Its recognized organ does not contradict the scandalous assertion. Not a word is said in Parliament: and, in Austria, the result is likely to be, that the article will be translated and published as an exposition of Lord PALMERSTON's views. In Lombardy, and the other States under Austrian influence, where no discussion is allowed, it may be conceived what will be the effect of such a declaration under the implied sanction of the British Government.

The more intelligent of the Italian Liberals never hoped, it is true, for the active intervention of England in their favour. They know that it has been Lord PALMERSTON's invariable policy to coquet with foreign Liberalism, to deceive and to desert it. But, after what passed in the French Conference, after the assurances given to Sardinia, the approval bestowed on Count CAVOUR's Memorial, and several distinct declarations against the prolonged occupation of the peninsula by Austrian and French armies, it is somewhat startling to hear this miserable palinode repudiating all sympathy with the Liberal movement, and ascribing it to the disaffection of the lowest and least public-spirited classes. What does it mean? Does it indicate some failure of policy, some new necessity of deferring to the Austrian Government, some sinister concert established between the Cabinets of London, Paris, and Vienna?

The insulting falsification applies not only to the Lombard, Venetian, Neapolitan, Tuscan, and Roman Liberals; but to the statesmen of Sardinia; not only to BROFFERIO, VALERIO, and the other distinguished leaders of the Left, but to Count CAVOUR himself, who is avowedly as discontented as MAZZINI, though his dissatisfaction assumes a modified official form. He, therefore, is aspersed by M. DE PERSIGNY's organ, together with the whole body of politicians who believe that Austrian military despotism is an evil, and that it is lawful to agitate against it. Lord PALMERSTON has more than once declared that the domination of Austria in Italy was a misfortune, not to the Italians only, but to herself. And now we hear that it is her high mission

to save and regenerate the peninsula. That is precisely what she has pretended to do for forty years. And Count HARTIG, an Imperial Councillor, has admitted that she has utterly and unavoidably failed.

A singular harmony is observable between the semi-official programme of the English writer and the plans of the semi-official journalists in France. Check, as far as possible, the maladministration of Naples, calm the passions of the Government and people in Tuscany, define the extent of the Pope's spiritual and temporal power; but frown on revolution, preserve the most cordial relations with Austria, act always in conjunction with "our great ally," never take a step unless with the sanction and co-operation of the interested powers. That is to say, suppress the Liberal party.

The Liberal party, however, includes the great body of the Italian nation. Say what you will: sneer at the ruined merchants, the beggarly advocates, the convicted attorneys, who disturb the peace of Italy: if the merchants of Italy are ruined, they have been ruined by Austrian monopolies; if the Liberal advocates are beggars, it is because no honest man finds a vocation in any court out of Sardinia; if convicted attorneys are among the agitators, they have been convicted by false witnesses and venal judges, to gratify the rapacious vengeance of the Austrian Government. Political and commercial restrictions, prohibitions, executions, prisons, scourges, taxes, sequestrations, police, spies, and clergy have made Italy what it is, and against these her best citizens appeal to the justice of Europe; but with or without the sympathy of Europe, they will endeavour to recover their liberties.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

THE reply of the French promoters of this scheme to the objections raised against it in England, has broken down on some material points. The mere cutting of the canal may be assumed as practicable, the isthmus being of a sandy, and not of a rocky formation. It may be conceded, also, though it is far from being proved, that the ports of Suez and Pelusium may be rendered convenient and safe. But several serious hypotheses of difficulty, involving the failure of the entire project, have only been partially, and by assumption, explained away. What is to secure the channel from being choked, the jetties from sinking, the entrances at either end from being barred by deposits of mud, the alluvium of the Nile? These are suggestions from which the argument of M. BARTHÉLEMY ST. HILAIRE glances off to less perplexing topics.

A still more important objection is that connected with the navigation of the Red Sea. During six months of the year, to state the matter roundly, a sailing vessel cannot get into the Red Sea, and during the other six months, cannot get out of it. This sort of seasonal navigation was adapted to the earlier ages of commerce; nor does it interfere essentially with the local coasting trade. But it is a serious obstacle, when considered in relation to the vast commercial intercourse now carried on between Europe and India. For, the practical result is, that, were the canal opened, a merchant vessel could not go from England to India, and return, oftener than once a year, and that thus, though the voyage would be shortened, the number of voyages would not be multiplied. We do not say that to shorten the sea voyage would be no advantage. It would be an advantage, also, to open a line of maritime communication to compete with the still perilous route by the Cape; but of all

enthusiasts, projectors, and expectant proprietors are the most sanguine, and the most likely to over-calculate; so that we must warn the reader against the logarithmic eloquence of M. SAINT HILAIRE.

The general adoption of the auxiliary screw might facilitate the navigation of the confined Red Sea channel. Considering, however, the precautions that have been rendered necessary by frequent accidents on the Atlantic, the tracing of parallel paths for the outward and homeward voyages of the ocean steamers there is some reason for doubting whether nearly five thousand vessels, propelled by the screw, would choose to pass up and down the narrow Red Sea annually. These, we admit, are details for future discussion; at present the question turns upon a point which M. DE LESSERS, and M. ST. HILAIRE desire to keep out of view.

They cannot but perceive that, though their ideas have undoubtedly made some way in the English public mind, neither the Government of Great Britain, nor the Ministers of the Porte, have as yet assented to the practical development of their plan. Now, without the recognition of the British Government, and the ratification of SAID PACHA's concessions to the SULTAN, the project continues in abeyance. There appears to be some good reasons for their reserve.

The works are to be carried out by a French Company, with an international proprietary; the Company is to be named, registered, seated, and governed in France. The Grand Maritime Canal is to remain at all times open "as a neutral passage to every merchant ship crossing from one sea to another, without any distinction, exclusion, or difference of persons or nationalities." In the first place, the guarantee, in its actual form, is very incomplete; in the second, its terms are very vague. It is simply an undertaking on the part of the Viceroy of Egypt, who answers also for his successors; but suppose England and France at war, would the neutrality of the channel close it to the hostile armaments of both nations, or open it to both, or allow one to guard it against the other? Or, supposing England at war with France and, at the same time, with Burmah, would France enjoy the advantage, by virtue of the neutrality act, of shutting up the Indian waters, and forcing England to despatch men and stores round the Cape? If the canal is only to be a commercial channel, an immense proportion of the benefits promised to England fall to the ground, since it would be of the utmost importance to her to be enabled to send troops and military provisions by the direct route to India. If, on the other hand, the canal be open to ships of war as well as traders, the first chance of a European conflict would send a squadron to Pelusium to blockade the Eastern passage.

We do not see any permanent or insuperable objections to the cutting through of the isthmus, if it be practicable; but we are convinced that the project must be opposed unless the new Eastern highway is to be placed under the united guarantee of the European powers, with just and reasonable provisions for the event of a war. An act of simple neutrality, construed as closing it to all but merchant vessels, would not meet the case. We have an empire on the Indian coasts, and facilities of military communication with that empire are as important as the commercial interests involved. But for no other Powers do similar necessities exist. Great Britain, it must be remembered, would, to a great extent, sacrifice her South African colonies by diverting the Indian trade from the Cape to the Red Sea route. She would also, in all probability, be compelled to in-

crease her fortifications and naval establishments at Aden to preserve her predominance on the Eastern Ocean.

LIMITED LIABILITY.

WE know not what result, as affecting legislation, two peers expect to produce, when they Protest against a successful measure. If the formality is an affair of conscience, it is intelligible; but if Lord OVERSTONE and Lord MONTEAGLE, who rose to their peerages under the Unlimited Law, anticipate from the last outcry of their commercial Toryism any appreciable effect on the parliamentary or public mind, we cannot guess how they suppose the protestation will act. When the QUEEN, Lords, and Commons set about reforming the law, they habitually do their work slowly, badly, and incompletely. But once done, it is seldom undone. We obtain little; but what we obtain we keep: unless, indeed, when Mr. PATTEN surprises us with a Beer Bill, or Mr. WALPOLE with a Bigotry Bill, in which cases, Legislation is, for a moment, jerked off the rails. Even then, however, the working system remains, for the most part, unaltered. No one believes, we suppose, that when the Limited Liability has been fairly brought into operation, it will be repealed, or "resolved" against by the Lords or Commons.

The new act does not bring commercial speculation sufficiently near to the working classes. It seems to have been framed upon Mr. BELLENDEN KER's notion, that the working classes could find no worse investments than commercial undertakings. Now, what is the fact? The law permits and encourages a variety of speculations among the working classes which are almost equivalent to gambling, or else constitute a machinery by which the dexterous rogue may possess himself of the results of an industrious man's economy. There are the thousands of badly constituted, unsafe, unprofitable Friendly Societies, which exist by forestalling the funds of the future. The Management consumes one half of the income, and bribes the subscribers by paying large bounties on small rates. Then, there are Loan Societies, on a petty scale, by which the working man is accustomed to the worst forms of usury. Scores of existing Building and Land Societies, under wasteful management and ignorantly constructed rules, can look for no success beyond that of a miserable Winding-Up. Associative institutions are started upon plans just small enough to be lingering failures.

But how can the economical working man apply his savings? There is little to tempt his confidence in the Savings Bank; still less in the Three Per Cents, which might return him five shillings for the savings of a year. He wishes to speculate, and he has a right to the pleasure, only the law renders it impossible. He needs an inducement to economy. If he were a French peasant he could lay by five-franc pieces to purchase a plot of land; but he has learned to fear the Land Society, and to despise the Savings Bank. Yet no alternative remains. Yes, there is one alternative. He can bet; he can gamble; and he does gamble and bet; and society is supposed to protect him, by keeping joint-stock speculation out of his reach. It fears lest he should catch at a glittering bubble. Really, society is in this case very considerate, for if it makes a difference between the poor and rich, the difference is in favour of the poor. The poor, however, do not appreciate it, and would prefer being placed on the same level with other classes, enjoying the same risks, exposed to the same chances of profit.

Another objection to Mr. Lowe's Act is, that its protection of commercial enterprise

comes at a point, in the progress of a joint-stock association, at which protection is seldom needed. Fully established companies rarely fail. It is the preliminary and provisional expense that alarms, the promoters' risk that should be limited. This part of the subject is of sufficient importance to be treated separately.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR WILLIAM FENWICK WILLIAMS, BART., K.C.B.

As our columns this day announce the return of General Williams from St. Petersburg, we shall doubtless be pardoned by our readers for giving them a brief sketch of the life and services of the gallant defender of Kars, whom her Majesty has rewarded with a baronetcy, and the more solid and substantial provision of 1000*l.* a year by way of pension.

Sir William Williams, who was born, we believe, in 1810, is a native, not of England, but of Nova Scotia; and his recent honours will be felt by our brethren in North America as reflecting some little glory on themselves. At an early age he came to this country, and was sent to the Royal Academy of Artillery at Woolwich by his Royal Highness the late Duke of Kent. Having passed his final examinations there, he obtained his commission as Second-Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery in 1825, attained the rank of First-Lieutenant in 1827, and that of Captain in 1840. The first scene of his active employment was Ceylon, where he was sent out on a special service, and remained for nine years discharging the duties of an Engineer, in such a manner as to attract the notice of his superiors. From that date till 1843 he was employed in Turkey, and received the brevet-rank of Major for his military services in that country. In the latter year he was appointed by Lord Aberdeen, then at the head of the Foreign Office, her Majesty's Commissioner for examining and settling the boundary between the Turkish and Persian frontiers. This was a work of very great difficulty and delicacy: it occupied him about nine years, four of which were actually passed under canvas. During that time his life was frequently in danger from bands of marauders, to say nothing of fevers and other diseases peculiar to the climate and the country. It was the late Lord Vivian, we believe (better known as Sir Hussey Vivian), then Master-General of the Ordnance, who selected him for the special work of instructing the Turks in artillery practice; the result of his teaching has been recently shown in a very practical manner by his Turkish disciples, and proves that for once at least the Government chose "the right man for the right place." He took a prominent part in the Conference preceding the Treaty of Erzeroum, in May, 1847, and having discharged his difficult mission in a way which gave satisfaction to all who were concerned in it, was advanced to a Lieutenant-Colonel, and ultimately rewarded with the Companionship of the Bath, which was conferred upon him in 1852.

From the peculiar experience which he had gained in the East, and his knowledge of the various nations by whom those parts are peopled, Colonel Williams was selected by Lord Clarendon, on the commencement of hostilities with Russia, in 1854, as her Majesty's Commissioner with the Turkish army in the East, being at the same time promoted to the rank of full Colonel, and soon afterwards of Brigadier-General. In the words of Lord Granville, "the event has proved that a better selection could not have been made." His conduct in this responsible post, rendered, as it was, the more trying by the personal enmity, or, at all events, the conscious coolness, of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, has won for him the praise of all, and has made his name celebrated throughout the length and breadth of Europe. He reached Erzeroum in September, 1854, and went on to Kars immediately. Fortunately we need not here recount what Lord Granville called the "painful events" which took place during the fourteen months that he held possession and command at Kars. They have been but too faithfully recorded in the speeches de-

livered in Parliament, admitted to be indefensible by the Government itself, and truthfully set forth in unvarnished colours by the correspondents of the press. The official letters of General Williams, and the recent publication of Dr. Sandwith, show what was the work which he did at Kars, and also the manner of his doing it. They also show, we may add, what Lord Stratford de Redcliffe left undone: and Lord Granville should remember that if there is danger in overrating living merit, there is also danger in underrating the heavy blame which attaches to haughty and self-willed ambassadors.

It was said by a noble lord, in summing up the character of General Williams, that there was only one point in which he did not exhibit the highest qualities of a general—and this was the fact, that he had no opportunity of showing his power to manœuvre a large force upon the field. A great historian, in laying down the conditions of generalship, requires that a man shall be not only first-rate as an engineer and a geographer, well acquainted with human nature and the springs of human action, and gifted with the art of managing his fellow-man, so as almost to lose the general in the statesman, but that he shall also know how to descend to lesser matters and become his commissary and his own clerk. Now, it cannot be doubted that these requirements were amply fulfilled in General Williams. His services as a geographer, both in Ceylon and on the Persian frontier, were confessedly great and eminent. It is impossible to read his despatches without perceiving that he admirably was fitted to manage whole bodies of men—always, of course, excepting the unmanageable Ambassador at the Porte. The vigorous measures adopted by him to save Kars, and which would, doubtless, have succeeded to the full, had he been properly supported at Constantinople, show that he was a statesman of no ordinary kind; and finally, as the only European aid that he had at hand during a protracted struggle was that of Mr. Churchill, it is clear that the duties of commissary and clerk must have devolved upon him also. Another secret of General Williams's greatness lies in the fact that where he found a trustworthy person, he trusted him without grudging or interference, without suspicion or jealousy. He was slow and cautious in his resolves, but, once resolved upon a course, he was as inflexible as iron. He was generous, philanthropic, and tolerant; and accordingly he found himself able to fuse together in one harmonious body the Christian and Mussulman subjects of the Sultan—a circumstance the more gratifying owing to the recent *hatti-sheriff* granted to the Christians by the Sublime Porte.

The glorious victory won under General Williams's auspices on the heights above Kars on the 29th of September last, first made his name familiar to the ears of the British public, as a first-rate officer and a man of cool judgment as well as high ability. On that occasion he repulsed the Russian troops with great slaughter, and that while labouring under severe difficulties. It was for his gallant conduct on this occasion that General Williams was nominated a K.C.B., and rewarded by the Sultan with the rank of *Mushir*, or full general in the Turkish service.

The defence of Kars is too well-known to need repeating here. It is enough to say that by the aid of Colonel Lake, its gallant commander, contrived to make it nearly impregnable, but that owing to the culpable indifference of the authorities at Constantinople, hunger and famine did for the Russians what their arms could never have effected, and that after undergoing untold sufferings, the garrison, with Williams at its head, was forced to capitulate to General Mouravieff, and the gallant general was sent to Moscow as a prisoner of war. It is but just to add that, in their captivity, General Williams and his companions were treated with all honour and respect on their way through Moscow and St. Petersburg, as was due to an honourable and vanquished enemy.

While mentioning that General Williams is now honoured with a baronetcy, and is now Sir William Fenwick Williams of Kars, it may not be amiss to remark that although the empty honours of the Bath have been conferred on about forty individuals who have held command in the Crimea and other parts of the East, no substantial rewards in the shape of peerages or baronetcies have as yet been conferred, in consequence of the late war, on those who have conducted its operations by land or sea, with the single exception of the baronetcy conferred in February last on Sir John Burgoyne, and the present title so well bestowed on General Williams.

Open Council.

[IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.]

There is no learned man but will confess he hath much profited by reading controversies, his senses awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write?—MILTON.

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF UNITED TRADES.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

32, Nelson-street, Trillston, Glasgow, June 18.

SIR,—In a well-written article in the *Leader* of Saturday last you have—unintentionally I have no doubt—made some mis-statements which I deem it my duty to correct. Sir, there is no Society of United Trades in Glasgow, or in Scotland, that I am aware of, but we hope there will soon be one. Twenty-six of the United Trades of Glasgow sent delegates to form a committee in aid of the miners; which committee, in terms of a resolution adopted unanimously at a public meeting in the City Hall, memorialised Lord Palmerston to use his influence with her Majesty to pass an order in council establishing a court of arbitration in the miners' case. The miners lost no opportunity of publicly declaring their willingness to abide by fair arbitration, but the coal and iron-hearted masters paid no attention to their offer. We certainly had the impression that the crown had the power (for the reasons stated in our memorial) to create such a tribunal. It seems we were wrong; but, being in error, we are not ashamed to avow it. We never adopted the title of the National Association of United Trades, or any other title resembling it, and my opinion is that the National Association of United Trades, acting through their corresponding secretary, have been ill-advised in making such an accusation against us. You say that by the National Association of United Trades the delegates were brought to London to give evidence before Mr. Mackinnon's committee. Sir, this is not true. A few of the United Trades, actuated by a desire for the good of all, sent two delegates to London, and themselves paid their expenses, independent of the National Association. This explanation is due to the trades who sent those delegates. We do not wonder that the National Association do not wish to hold themselves responsible for the errors or conduct of a junior society, but there is no junior society as yet; and, did they know their duty, they would foster us in our attempt to create such a society, which might either merge into the senior society, or at least be auxiliary to it. Trusting you will accept this explanation in the same spirit in which it is given, I remain, dear Sir,

With much respect,

Yours, &c.,

WM. B. CAMPBELL.

[We are happy to give publicity to this contradiction. The statement in question was forwarded to us, in writing, from the offices of the National Society of United Trades, 269, Strand. We now await an explanation from the gentleman by whom it was forwarded.]

AMERICA AND ENGLAND.—An address from the industrial classes of Manchester to the American people, deprecating a resort to war, was issued last week, and has been succeeded this week by a similar address from the Liverpool Financial Association. The document, which is signed by Mr. Robertson Gladstone, President of the Council, points out the want in England of legislative check over the diplomatic acts of our Ministers, and the presence and free use of that check in America, and then proceeds to ask—"Whence is it, if you really disapprove of the acts of your ministers, as we are led to believe you do, that there has been no public manifestation of your disapproval?" The Council disapprove of the enlistment of soldiers for the English Army in America, but think that it was almost encouraged by the American Government declaring that there was nothing to prevent any American citizen or resident leaving the States and enlisting elsewhere. At any rate, the injury has been atoned for. With respect to the Treaty question, the Council think that the offer of arbitration is perfectly fair and should be accepted. "We were told by our Prince Consort during the late war," says the document, "that that war had put representative institutions on their trial, and that it might be found necessary to diminish our present freedom both of speech and publication. This was the captious objection of an individual whose residence among us seems not yet to have eradicated the despotic leanings contracted by his continental birth and breeding; but, if war between the only two great countries in the world which have representative institutions, founded on the sovereignty of the people, is to result from such causes as those which we have examined, most truly may it be said, not that such institutions are upon their trial, but that they have been tried and are condemned."

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

A good lesson in the real art of agitating difficult and delicate questions of Social Reform may be gained by following the procedure of that "Society for the Repeal of the Laws Relating to the Property of Married Women" to which we have more than once alluded. Any attempt to interfere with marriage laws rouses the apprehensive opposition of husbands and wives; no matter how unjust logic may prove the laws to be, "popular instinct"—which too often means organized selfishness—revolts against a hint at reform. It is to be confessed, also, that our American friends and their English imitators have betrayed the cause they meant to defend; and the woman question has incurred the double odium of being dangerous and ridiculous.

Instead of "broad views" and somewhat hysterical eloquence, the Society now alluded to has confined itself to one simple, practical, and pressing question, viz., that of woman's right to her own earnings or her own property. To get this right legitimized in law would be a great step; and the Society tries to secure this point, leaving to future legislators to alter at their will all other points. As the purpose is direct and practical, so have the means employed been simple and efficient. Instead of eloquence the Society has given a brief statement of the present law, and the proposed alteration; instead of invective and troublesome public meetings, it has secured the co-operation of lawyers and grave politicians, and has drawn up a masterly *Report*, written, it is understood, by Sir ERSKINE PERRY, showing what is the condition of the law in England, America, France, and Germany. The whole thing is conducted in an earnest, business-like manner. What is the consequence? The first consequence is that the movement counts among its avowed advocates such men as Lord BROUGHAM, Lord DENMAN, Lord STANLEY, Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, Sir ERSKINE PERRY, Sir LAWRENCE PEEL, Mr. Serjeant MANNING, Mr. M. D. HILL, Mr. MONCKTON MILNES, &c.,—men who will see that the measure be duly brought before the Legislature, and give it there the weight of their advocacy, so that we may look forward to a reform of the law as certain at no distant time. Now compare this with the other procedure in which tirades are substituted for business-like propositions, and a "general agitation" substituted for agitation in detail. Parliament—in England at least—is to be influenced by a society having definite and not alarming views set forth in a business-like way, and urged by men of authority—men who can be secured only by definite views—but Parliament has a quite mediocre respect for "causes" which are agitated in all their abstractness, advocated in eloquence poured forth with feminine facility and grammar of the same sex.

The English language, so constantly maltreated by other writers than those alluded to in the closing sentence of the last paragraph, is, it must be confessed, in a somewhat lax condition, if not in respect of grammar, at least in respect of orthography and pronunciation; and even those writers to whom we look for something like authoritative guidance, are repeatedly at fault. Why, for example, does Mr. TRENCH write *co*-temporary and not *cotemporary*? Why is *coöperate* deprived of the intercalated *n*, which would fill the hiatus between the two *o*'s? Reason there is none, that we know of, except the *pes et norma loquendi* "custom." But if custom gives law, surely it is more correct to say *contemporary*!

If the reader is not utterly weary of hearing about Spirit Rappings, we would ask him to sympathize with our affliction (recently endured with some hilarity) on a forced reading of Mr. NEWTON CROSSLAND's *New Theory of Apparitions*, and three numbers of a monthly journal, *The Spiritual Herald*, devoted to the Exposition of the Phenomena of Spirit Manifestations. Mr. CROSSLAND, although sublimely contemptuous in his attitude towards Science, and not less so towards "flippant critics and philosophic buffoons," not specified, has a scientific theory of his own to announce, on reading which the reader will thoroughly understand Mr. CROSSLAND's scorn of Science. Mr. CROSSLAND is one of those men described by Madame DE STAEL as *complètement de son avis*. To doubt the reality of spirit manifestation, is, he says, "as ridiculous and foolish as to doubt the existence of the solar system."

Mr. CROSSLAND tells us that FARADAY, when he crushed the spirit-rappers, "rendered himself the laughing stock of"—what does the reader think?—"of every spiritual circle in England and America!" But we must hasten to quote Mr. CROSSLAND's theory:—

The candid ghost-seer, in relating his experiences, is baffled by the scoffing logician, who exclaims—"I have no objection to believe in the apparition of the soul of your grandmother, but don't tell me that you really and literally saw the ghost of her nightcap and apron! Your dead uncle, too, whom you saw drowning; is his pea-jacket endowed with an immortal spirit?" Our credulous friend is puzzled, and meekly acquiesces in the conclusion—"Well, perhaps it was all a delusion."

To meet this difficulty, I venture to offer as a solution the following hypothesis:—that every significant action of our lives—in the garments we wear, and in the attitudes and gestures of our humanity—is vitally photographed or depicted in the spirit-world; and that the angels, under God's direction, have the power of exhibiting, as a living picture, any specific circumstances or features to those who have the gift of

spiritual sight, and who are intended to be influenced by the manifestations. These tableaux may represent still life, or they may be animated by certain spirits appointed for the purpose, or by the identical spirits of the persons whose forms are shown, when the apparitions are the images of those who have departed this world.

The man who could believe in and print such a theory as that, may easily believe in spirit-rappings. Unhappily for Spiritualism, and for this explanation thereof, other professors are by no means content with images, whether "vitally photographed" or not. Indeed, the editor of the *Spiritual Herald* takes a correspondent to task for expressing ignorance of the tangibility and visibility of the spirits. "Our fair correspondent," he says (No. III., p. 78), "seems not to be aware that heads and entire forms of spirits have frequently appeared; even spirit-hair has been handled and playfully combed with the fingers."

We alluded, a week or two ago, to the hereditary instinct in Englishmen to make each other uncomfortable. One great engine employed is the interference by one portion of the community with the habits and enjoyments of the other. If I don't wear a beard you shall not; if I don't like dancing you shall not dance; if I don't like candles lighted at the altar, or an organ pealing its solemn tones in a church, you shall not light the one or listen to the other; if smoking makes me uncomfortable it shall be no comfort to you. There is actually established in Manchester a "British Anti-tobacco Society," and it has followed the old tack of getting Religion to countenance its agitation, and Religion—at least that which in some circles passes under that name—is ever ready at the call to make people uncomfortable. Mr. HUGH STOWELL always shows great alacrity in such cases; you cannot please him more than by giving him a pleasure to denounce, or a sin to create; accordingly he joins this Anti-tobacco Society, and declares his principal reason to be that snuff and cigars, besides being expensive, tend "to produce selfishness and to deaden the benevolent feelings of the heart." It may be so, we do not see how it can be so, but Mr. STOWELL is so great a master of the secret ways of sin that his word must be taken. There is one thing, however, which we *know* produces intense selfishness and deadens all benevolence; and we not only know *that* it is, but *how* it is; and Mr. STOWELL will not hear it for the first, nor the hundredth time, when he hears that it is his method of interpreting Christian doctrine. The smoke of the cigar may deaden the heart, but it will scarcely produce so much rancorous and hideous animosity, or so much triumphant selfishness as the smoke Mr. STOWELL and his sect delight in contemplating, namely, the smoke of a certain "torment that goeth up for ever and ever." Again we say, Happy happy, England, that has its CUMMINGS, its CANDLISHES, and its STOWELLS!

CALDERON.

Life's a Dream: The Great Theatre of the World. From the Spanish of Calderon. With an Essay on his Life and Genius. By Richard Chenevix Trench.

J. W. Parker and Son.

THIS is a book written out of genuine love of the subject, and thereby carries with it a certain interest. Mr. Trench has written such agreeable books on "Proverbs," and the "English Language," that his volume on Calderon excited the pleasantest expectations in us; but unhappily, although the range of his studies has given him many advantages in the execution of this task, the nature of his intellect unfits him for it. His grasp is feeble. Familiar as this volume shows him to be with the Spanish Drama, what he has written about it might have been written by one wholly dependent on secondhand information. He seizes no characteristics. He places nothing definitely before you. Nor is he, properly speaking, of a critical disposition; and while his opinions on poetry are generally questionable, his opinions on dramatic poetry are those of one destitute of dramatic instinct. The volume is a long *plaidoyer* in defence of Calderon, the result of which will be to lower Calderon in the estimation of Mr. Trench's readers, and for this reason: not only does he abstain from justifying his praises by direct citations of such typical passages as would carry some conviction to the reader's mind, but unhappily he has given a long analysis of "The Great Theatre of the World" in elucidation of his comments on Calderon's marvellous *Autos Sacramentales*, and this analysis will assuredly be considered by the majority of readers as evidence of a very superficial, and somewhat childish attempt to embody in poetic forms a philosophic conception. We do not remember a greater instance of self-defeat than this. After so grand an exordium so trivial a result is almost startling. Certain we are that if those who deny to Calderon the highest powers wanted evidence for their opinion, the analysis given by Mr. Trench of what he considers one of Calderon's highest productions would suffice.

Calderon, however, was a greater poet than he appears under the enthusiastic treatment of his English expositor. Not we believe one of the great poets—not on the whole so remarkable as Lope de Vega, and immeasurably lower than Molière, Goethe, or Shakspeare—he nevertheless has his own striking and peculiar merits, which Mr. Trench appears to us to have very imperfectly seized, led away as he has been by the desire to find in Calderon something of that philosophic depth, and poetic grandeur, which the Schlegels tried to persuade the world were to be found in him. Mr. Trench at any rate avoids the narrow Protestant error of condemning the Catholic spirit of the Catholic poet; although a Protestant divine, as we cannot but see elsewhere than on the title-page, Mr. Trench is too far-sighted to treat the Catholic poet from other than a Catholic point of view. It is true that in one passage he assumes very questionable advantages for Protestantism; but he is uniformly just to Calderon on this head. The passage we allude to is the following:—

A thoughtful man must, I think, be often deeply struck with the immeasurable ad-

vantage for being the great poet of all humanity, of all ages and all people, which Shakspeare possessed in being a Protestant.

As we do not see what is so clear to thoughtful men we must leave the reader to try his skill in divination. The three great poets we take to be Homer, Shakspeare, and Goethe. The Protestantism of Homer is out of question, that of Shakspeare is very questionable, and that of Goethe supremely so.

Against Mr. Trench's strongly worded claims for Calderon's greatness we venture to oppose two general considerations. The reader must understand that we are not denying Calderon's specific greatness, nor his claim to be ranked among the illustrious men thronging the sides of Parnassus; we only deny his claim to be ranked among those who stand on the heights of the 'double-crested Mount.' First then we remark in Calderon the almost total absence of that wealth of thought so abundant in great poets, and which is not only visible in the composition of their works as wholes, but runs over into exquisite rills of verse, where, as proverbs and citations, they for ever meander through the nation's literature. There is more evidence of intellectual wealth in the single scene between Celimène and Arsinoë (in Molière's *Misanthrope*) so brief, so reticent, so pregnant, so certain in its touches, and so free from superfluous touches, than in any one play of Calderon's we have read; and as to the jealousy scene in *Othello*, we will not do Calderon the injustice to think of a comparison. But over and above his thought displayed in the composition there is, as we noted, a perpetual overflow in the shape of *yaquis*, pregnant sayings, deep glances, felicities of thought felicitously expressed, lines which are born immortal and are certain to become proverbs, or, to use Boileau's happy phrase,

Par le prompt effet d'un sel réjouissant,
Devenir quelquefois proverbes en naissant.

In these Calderon is singularly poor. Imagery abounds in his plays, but how rarely are those images such as perpetually recur to our minds with haunting grace? The very best of these, at least the best of those which we can recal, is the one so perfectly translated by Mr. Fitzgerald, and quoted by Mr. Trench:—

He who far off beholds another dancing,
Even one who dances best, and all the time
Hears not the music that he dances to,
Thinks him a madman, apprehending not
The law which moves his else eccentric action.
So he that's in himself insensible
Of love's sweet influence, misjudges him
Who moves according to love's melody:
And knowing not that all these sighs and tears,
Ejaculations and impatiences
Are necessary changes of a measure
Which the divine musician plays, may call
The lover crazy, which he would not do,
Did he within his own heart hear the tune
Played by the great musician of the world.

Is it not exquisite? and will not every reader of Calderon admit that passages like this are excessively rare?

The second general remark we would make is this: Besides the intellectual prodigality of great poets there is—to borrow an illustration from the microscope—a *defining power* in their minds causing all their conceptions to take such definite shapes that we never forget or confound them with the shapes met elsewhere. In reading Calderon, as in reading Beaumont and Fletcher, we may be delighted with the surprising turns of the plot, and the graceful facility of the language, but we scarcely ever remember the plots, nor when the name of a character is recalled do we recall an image of the person, so little of a durable impression has been made. One or two of Calderon's plots are memorable, such as *El Medico di su honra*, and *El Alcalde de Zalamea*, from a certain ghastly energy of conception; but the reader may judge how transient is the impression produced by any particular play if we record a fact in our own experience, namely, that having twice read 'Life's a Dream,' and once analysed it, translating some portions, besides reading analyses in various German and English criticisms, we had totally forgotten what was the story, what were the means taken to embody the conception, and what were the characters of the piece, and this after a lapse of only some six or seven years. As our memory may here be chargeable, we refer to the experience of every other reader of Calderon, certain that after a very brief interval, the plots and characters of the works he admired will have become very hazy, if not entirely obliterated. Now it is clear that we cannot be incessantly re-reading a poet, and if his works are so evanescent from our memories, his chance of becoming a 'Household Word' is but small; and this is Calderon's case, as it is also Lope de Vega's; but it is not the case with the great poets, or at least not with their works, which live by intrinsic worth, and not *nominis umbra*.

On these two general criticisms we are content to rest our denial of Calderon's claims to be considered a poet of whom even the wildest enthusiasm could say he belonged to the highest order. Mr. Trench thinks otherwise, and if the reader sees in this volume any evidence which satisfies him, we have no more to say. That Mr. Trench's admiration is facile may be gathered from the following:—

When we seek to form an estimate of Calderon, it is, I think, in the first place impossible not to admit the immense range of history and fable which supplies him with the subject-matter for his art, and the entire ease and self-possession with which he moves through every province of his poetical domain; and this, even where he is not able to make perfectly good his claim to every portion of it. Thus he has several dramas which the argument is drawn from the Old Testament, *The Looks of Absalom*, perhaps the noblest of these. Still more have to do with the heroic martyrdom and other legends of Christian antiquity, the victories of the Cross of Christ over all the heathen and spiritual wickednesses of the ancient heathen world. To this theme, which forms almost undrawn upon in our Elizabethan drama,—Massinger's *Philip of Mass* is the only example I remember,—he returns continually, and he has dedicated these plays with peculiar care. Of these *The Wonder-working Magician* is most celebrated; but others, as *The Joseph of Women*, *The Two Lovers of Heaven*, quite deserve to be placed on a level, if not indeed higher than it. A tender pathetic grace pervades this last which gives it a peculiar charm. Then to the last, now

pied what one might venture to call the region of sacred mythology, as in *The Sibyl of the East*, in which the profound legends identifying the Cross of Calvary and the Tree of Life are wrought up into a poem of surpassing beauty. In other of these not the Christian, but the Romish, poet is predominant, as in *The Purgatory of St. Patrick*, *The Devotion of the Cross*, *Daybreak in Copacabana*, this last being the story of the first dawn of the faith in Peru. Whatever there may be in these of superstitions, or, as in one of them there is, of ethically revolting, none but a great poet could have composed them.

Then further, his historic drama reaches down from the grey dawn of earliest story to the celebration of events which happened in his own day; it extends from *The Daughter of the Air*, being the Legend of Semiramis, and in Goethe's judgment his most glorious piece (Goethe however seems only to have been familiar with those which had been translated into German), down to *The Siege of Breda*, alluded to already. Between these are dramas from Greek history; and from Roman. Of these *The Great Zenobia* is the best; *The Arms of Beauty*, on the story of Coriolanus, and as poor as its name would indicate, the worst. Others are from Jewish; and a multitude from the history of modern Europe; thus two at least from English annals; one, rather a poor one, on the Institution of the Order of the Garter; another, *The Schism of England*; which is his *Henry the Eighth*, and, as may be supposed, written at a very different point of view from Shakspeare's. It is chiefly curious as shewing what was the popular estimate in Spain of the actors in our great religious reformation; and displays throughout an evident desire to spare the king, and to throw the guilt of his breach with the Church on Anna Boleyn and Cardinal Wolsey. But the great majority of Calderon's historical dramas are drawn, as was to be expected in a poet so intensely national, and appealing to so intensely national a feeling, from the annals of his own country. These have the immense advantage of being the embodiment, for the most part, of events already familiar to the popular mind. The heroes of Spanish romance and of Spanish history are here brought forward; and not the remoter names alone, but those of the century preceding, Isabella of Castile, Charles the Fifth, the Conquistadores, Philip the Second, Don John of Austria, Alva, Figueroa, and even some of those who were still living when he wrote.

We omit the remaining paragraphs referring to classical subjects, and remark upon the whole case that our admiration is but tepid for the mere 'extent and range' of history, when history is so utterly and recklessly disregarded as in Calderon. We do not blame the Spanish poet for disregarding historical accuracy and *couleur locale*. If his Greeks, Romans, Mythological and Oriental persons are undistinguishable in everything but name from the Spanish characters of his Spanish plays, we blame him not; he never thought of pleasing an erudite pit of critics, and if he had thought of pleasing such a pit, it is probable the pit would have been empty, partly because no such erudite critics were in Spain, and mainly because the non-erudite would have stayed away. We cannot, however, so easily acquit Mr. Trench. He knows well enough how little history there is in these historical plays, and that his admiration should be excited by a mere range and extent of ignorance is not conceivable; what then is it which rouses his admiration?

Our remarks have extended so far that we have little room left in which to characterize the contents of the book. It consists of a Life of Calderon, a criticism, or, more properly speaking, remarks on his genius, a sketch of the English Literature on the subject, and analyses of two plays, with interspersed translations. Compressed within narrower limits the book would have made an agreeable article for a *Quarterly Review*, and it may have attractions for students of Spanish poetry which its slim form and moderate cost may permit them to enjoy.

FERRIER'S CARAVAN JOURNEYS.

Caravan Journeys and Wanderings in Persia, Afghanistan, Turkistan, and Beloochistan. By J. P. Ferrier. Translated by Captain William Jesse. Edited by H. D. Seymour, M.P.

ONE of the old English voyagers introduced his narrative thus: "Being determined to survey the world, I sailed from Bristol." M. Ferrier began his indefinite wanderings in the same spirit, when he started from Bagdad. He was resolved "to try his fortunes beyond Persia, in the countries yet imperfectly known of Central Asia." His Oriental friends predicted, as the result, a speedy and miserable death, in the most desolate wildernesses, or among the worst barbarians of the East. But an old Chasseur d'Afrique, who had served in the Algerine wars, who had aided in drilling a Persian army, and who knew the secrets of travel, was not easily operated upon by fear, and M. Ferrier, accordingly, in the spring of the year 1845, struck off from the valley of the Tigris, to explore the limits of civilization, across the waterless altitudes of Khorassan. His boldness was that of Ibu Batuta; the romance of his adventures was that of Pietro della Valle. No recent traveller has revived so well the sense of excitement, associated with peril, enterprise, discovery. We read his journals, as we read the stories of the Celebrated Travellers; they are as full of interest, of variety, of the charm that belongs to new scenes well described, of colour, anecdote, and animation, and Captain Jesse is so proficient a translator that the pictorial vitality of the original French is in no degree lost.

M. Ferrier, displaced by Russian influence from his official post in Persia, and disappointed in his efforts to obtain redress in France, returned to Bagdad, and planned a journey, in search of fortune, to Lahore. Beyond the Persian frontier his route lay through territories so dangerous and inaccessible, that few Europeans have attempted to explore them. From Herat he tried to penetrate through Balkh and the cities on that highway to Lahore; but thronging perils and obstacles baffled him, and he was forced to turn back, when at no great distance from Kabul. Next, he struck into the country of the formidable Hazarahs, in which no Afghan dares to travel, and in which no European had hitherto set foot. He had nearly reached the ancient and curious city of Gour, when the jealous chiefs of the Hazarah nation compelled him to retrace his steps to Herat. Thence, after a short repose, and in spite of warnings, he set out to try and reach India, through Southern Afghanistan, by Girishk and Kandahar. In these countries his adventures were marvellous. He saw the strangest illustrations of the primitive forms of life in Central Asia, engrafted on manners of more modern growth; he was several times imprisoned; he passed in various disguises; he was in some places threatened with the direst tortures, in others entertained with the most seducing hospitalities. All this gives his

narrative a rare and continuous fascination, enhanced by details of high value in a geographical and historical sense. M. Ferrier describes the great river Helmand, which disappears in the lake Seistan, the province of Seistan itself, the Turcomans, Beloochees, Uzbeks, and other races of Tartary, for Tartars they are, of the vast nation that spreads from the Northern Sea to the Chinese mountains. His sketches are taken in every conceivable variety of situation, in bazaars, coffee-houses, camps, caravans winding over the desert, walled villages, pastoral hamlets, baths, palaces, prisons, lonely passes, among shepherds, soldiers, and gipsies. Mr. Danby Seymour remarks that Ferrier supplies the latest account of the countries of Central Asia; he might have added, the fullest and the best.

M. Ferrier believes that no country in Asia is inaccessible to a European who speaks the language fluently, and is acquainted with the customs and religion of the inhabitants, and the necessity of respecting them. His success in Afghanistan he attributes to his habit of conforming to the manners and modes of thought of the people; his failures to the circumstance that no European had attempted to traverse the Afghan territory since the English disasters at Kabul. As a first precaution, he adopted the Afghan dress, though with the resolution of always avowing himself a European.

The people of Herat were disposed to be more courteous than M. Ferrier expected or desired. Approaching the capital, he heard that Yar Mo-hamed, a prince of sinister reputation, was preparing to receive him in public with extraordinary honours. Several battalions of troops were in readiness at the gate, and a glittering cavalcade of chieftains were to meet him as he drew near to the town. This was perplexing:—"How could I make a public entrance hanging on one side of a camel, with my servant on the other, with a solitary baggage camel in the rear?"

To evade the flattery of an official reception, he hastened his march, and contrived to reach the suburbs before dawn. Waiting for the light among the ruins of a magnificent mosque, he passed in as soon as the gates were open; but the event was at once proclaimed, and soldiers came running from all quarters to dignify his arrival. Then follows a pleasant chapter on life in Herat, displaying a thorough knowledge of Central Asian history, tinged by a not unnatural bias against the methods and results of British Eastern policy.

The artists of Damascus, who seem to have been inspired from Italy, were employed by Tamerlane to beautify the old Tartar city of Samarcand. Probably, as M. Ferrier suggests, they afterwards, in the service of the magnificent Shah Rokh, produced some of the marvellous works still in existence at Herat. He saw a mausoleum in a mortuary cell, dedicated to a Mongol princess, which proved that, at one era, art and taste must have flourished, though only as exotics, among the nations of Tartary. A vast block of black marble, finely polished, was covered on three sides with numberless flowers, involved and interlaced in marvellous intricacy, but cut so deeply, and with such delicate finish, that it seemed impossible to imagine how anything so exquisite and so minute could have been wrought with a chisel.

At Herat M. Ferrier received the permission of the chief to continue his journey towards India. He proceeded among the mountains, pastures, and tent-dwelling tribes to Balkh, the original capital of the Persian monarchs, the building of which is ascribed by Orientals to Kaïamur, the first of the Pishadian line. It was prosperous when Alexander of Macedon marched that way, and though devastated by Genghiz and by Timour, still flourishes, 'the Mother of Cities,' in the midst of orchards and meadows. Thence onwards, across the Paropamisian range, among the Hazarah Tartars, until he reached the country of the patriarchal Seherais—a tribe of Tartar pagans. Here the hospitality of the desert took a peculiar form, and as M. Ferrier conformed, on principle, to the usages of men and cities, he glided without reluctance into the allurements of the court of Timour Beg. That chieftain had somewhat astonished his guest by sending a pretty young slave to welcome him; but what was M. Ferrier's wonder when, upon requesting permission to retire, he was led to his apartment by a bevy of the Seherai damsels, who bathed and shampooed him from head to foot, and ceased not to polish his corporeal frame until he prayed for some repose. Among the Eisnak women, who inhabit the table-lands and slopes of Paropamisus, a more remarkable characteristic was observed. They are Amazons, dreaded by the Afghans as much as the men, and not allowed to marry until they have performed a feat of arms.

In his second journey from Herat, across the steppes to Kandahar, M. Ferrier explored some scarcely known territories, and met with many remarkable adventures. At Mahmoodabad and at Girishk he was thrown into prison, half starved, beaten until the blood burst through his skin, and repeatedly robbed. But no difficulty seemed sufficient to break his spirit; the hour of his release saw him pushing on for Kandahar. He reached that city, but, compelled to return to Girishk, was once more confined in a tower overlooking the Herat road, and threatened with death by torture. Sometimes he was tied to a post and exposed to a burning hot sun, while a mob of soldiers shattered him with all varieties of abominations; then a dagger was held to his throat; lastly, boiling oil and red-hot irons were prepared; until two nights and days of misery, without food, drink, or sleep, wore out his resolution, and he gave way to the most infamous extortion.

The provinces of Kandahar and Seistan, described by M. Ferrier, have derived a new importance, as Mr. Danby Seymour remarks, from the trade that has sprung up at the Scinde ports, since the dethronement of the Talpoor princes. Hitherto their large and active populations have been supplied with British manufactures through Russia, by the steam traffic of the Volga, the Caspian, even the Aral Sea. From Kurrachee, however, a practicable route leads inwards which might be converted into the channel of an extensive and profitable commerce.

M. Ferrier seems to believe in the possibility of a Russian invasion of India. Without pretending to limit political or military possibilities, we do not consider that even his minute local knowledge, and his elaborate and interesting argument, bear very conclusively on the question. Influence the Afghans and Persians as they might, trace lines of march through the hot watered, richest, most thickly populated territories, avoid the crested

ridges, collect boats, horses, and camels wherever they can be found, establish vast depôts on the Eastern shores of the Caspian, and the Russian army, whether it take the route of Balkh or Kandahar, must march an enormous distance through an ill provided region, environed by difficulties, and exposed to innumerable dangers from the caprice or treachery of the untamed and warlike races of Central Asia.

SHAKSPEARE'S ENGLAND.

Shakspeare's England; or, Sketches of the Social History in the Reign of Elizabeth.
By G. W. Thornbury, Author of the "History of the Buccaneers," &c. 2 vols.
Longman and Co.

MR. THORNBURY has taken great pains with a very good subject, and has produced a pleasant, readable book, where a little more pains, or perhaps another conception of his task, would have produced a work of permanent interest. It seems to us that the desire of being popular, rather than of making the most thorough use of his materials, has caused him to be sketchy and fragmentary where only full pictures could have had much worth. He seems fearful of being dull for a single page. He never is dull, but he sometimes becomes fatiguing. Details are so crowded on the page, images succeed each other with such rapidity, that the eye becomes jaded.

Nevertheless, although the book falls short of what it might have been, we must repeat our expression of approval of what it is. So many pictures of Elizabethan life, so many details gathered in the course of extensive reading, cannot but be both agreeable and useful; and if the whole reads maginist and sketchy, the fault is far more pardonable than its opposite—dryas dust fribble and black letter tediousness. Mr. Thornbury deserves thanks both for what he has done and what he has not done. He has written an entertaining book, and he might have written a very tedious one. He describes in Volume I. the Streets of Old London, the Mansions and Palaces, the Amusements, the Laws of Duelling, the Serving-men, the Diet, the Dress, the Cheats, Thieves, and Beggars, and the Hunting and Hawking: subjects which might more effectively have occupied both his volumes, since, by giving a little more space, the details being less crowded would have produced more effect. We will give the reader "a taste of his quality" from various sections. Of Old London he says:—

We can scarcely imagine London a walled city, having gates like Thebes, and able to stand a siege like Troy. There was a deep, fond feeling of home when Ludgate, Bishopsgate, Cripplegate, Moorgate, Aldgate, &c., were shut at a certain hour, when Bow-bell rang, and citizens felt they were barred in for the night, guarded and watched over by men of their own appointing. London is too large now to love as a mother, and too dirty to honour as a father.

The picture he paints is indeed a strange one, when *Holborn was a country road leading to the pleasant village of St. Giles*; and when

At this time there was a feeling of social pleasure over the whole city; Grocers', Drapers', Ironmongers', Salters', and Merchant Taylors' Halls had all their gardens and bowling alleys. Sir Paul Pindar, Gresham's contemporary, had gardens in Bishopsgate-street. There were gardens in Aldersgate-street and Westminster. There were gardens round Cornhill Market, and gardens in Clerkenwell. Smithfield was planted with trees; trees waved in St. Giles's; and Ely-place was famous for flowers. Leicester Fields and Soho were open tracts; and near Leather-lane the Queen's gardener lived, and lived to plant and sow.

Mr. Thornbury, however, usually alive to the distinctions between the present and the past, seems to have forgotten that his readers have not the same knowledge, when he says:

The butchers' shops, however, astonish us by their prices: a fat ox, 26s.; a fat wether, 3s. 4d.; and the same price for a fat calf; a fat lamb 12d.; three pounds of beef, a penny. Everywhere the same cheapness: milk from a farm in the Minories, the three ale pints, 1½d. in summer, and 2½d. in winter. Wine, too, is very cheap, and within the reach of any poor man, though not quite so much so as in Henry VIII.'s time, when, by statute, Gascon wine was sold at 8s. the gallon, and the cheapest at 1d. a pint, and 4d. the pottle. Malmsey and sack at 6s. the gallon.

He should have added the relative value of the shilling in those days to the shilling in our own (Mr. Froude makes out the penny in the days of Henry VIII. to have been equal to our shilling), and then, perhaps, the astonishment at such prices would vanish.

To those who deny progress in moral culture, we especially recommend Mr. Thornbury's chapter on Bear-baiting. He truly says, that England "has grown too civilized to tolerate a savage diversion that Shakspeare, Bacon, Raleigh, and Sidney may have watched with breathless eagerness." We borrow the following:

At Kenilworth, on Elizabeth's visit, thirteen great bears were worried by ban dogs. Lancham, that type of Malvolio, the officious, pert, tyrannical, fussy, groom of the chamber, grows warm in his description of the bear with pink eyes, leering at the approaching dogs, the bound nimble and watchful from vantage, and the bear prepared for the assault. If he was bitten in one place, he pressed the dog close till he got free. He says it was a "goodly relief" to see the clawing and roaring, the tossing and shaking, till he wound himself from them. Then would he shake his ears twice or thrice, and scatter the blood and froth over his tormentors; the dogs seizing him by the throat, he clawing them on the scalp, with much plucking, tugging, howling and barking, growling and snarling; some dogs limping to their masters, who kick them as curs; some lying on their sides, licking their wounds.

Again:

The whipping a blind bear was performed by five or six men, who, armed with whips, stood in a circle round the stake. They then laid on without mercy, and the sport was to see the agonized creature's furious efforts to seize them. The bear would defend himself with force and skill, throwing down all who came within reach of his chain and were not active enough to escape, tearing the whips from the men's hands with his jaws, and crushing them in his teeth. The whipping continued till the blood ran down the bear's shoulders and many of the men had had their legs torn and hands scratched. The crowd peculiarly delighted in this divertissement, because it resembled the gaoler's public whipping of strumpets at the cart's tail, a sight then frequently to be witnessed up Cheap or past Ludgate.

In speaking of the amusement of Cock-fighting, he tells us that "chickens that crowed too soon or too frequently, were generally condemned to the spit as birds of no promise or ability"—a fact which may "point a moral" in the presence of conceited young gentlemen.

The British Anti-tobacco Society should read the amusing section Mr. Thornbury devotes to smoking:—

It has long been an object of special wonder with us that Shakspeare's plays contain no mention of the new vice of smoking, while Ben Jonson, his younger contemporary, founds whole scenes upon the practice. Some commentators bring this forward as a proof of the comparative earliness of many of his dramas; but this cannot suffice, as smoking was in full use long before "Will" left London. He does not either mention the introduction of forks from Italy. It cannot be answered that Grumio does not stoop to notice the follies of the day, since we have shown that Shakspeare drew his manners entirely, and almost unidealized, from his own age, and mentions false hair, masks, pomanders, fardingales, and all the latest novelties.

The poets called it fit only for rotten-lunged chimney-sweeps, the habit blackening the teeth and poisoning the breath, used by watermen, colliers, and carmen, who spit and beslobber every place. Cob epitomizes this dislike with much humour, and in a manner that King James himself would have appreciated.

To which tirade Bobadil would answer by strongly exhaling a whiff of smoke and declaring that, by that air, it was the most divine tobacco he had ever drunk. Gallants delighted to take tobacco in the lords' room over the stage, and then go and spit privately in St. Paul's.

At the ordinary, before the meat came smoking upon the board, the gallant drew out his tobacco-box, and ladle for assisting the cold snuff into his nostrils, tongs for holding hot coals, and priming-iron; all this artillery, if he were rich or foolish, of gold and silver, was very useful to pawn when current coin ran low. His whole talk was of different varieties of tobacco, which he knew better than the merchants, and of the apothecary's shop where it could best be bought; then he would show several tricks in the way of taking it, as the whiff, the snuff, and the Euripus. At the theatre he smoked and displayed his cane and pudding and all his varieties of tobacco, and from thence would repair to the tobacco ordinary; his talk there is whether nicotine or Trinidad is sweetest, which pipe has the best bore, which turns black, and which broke in browning.

The poor laughed at this luxury of driving smoke through the nose and sealing up all with filthy roguish tobacco; they smiled to see the smoke come forth of a man's tunnels, little thinking that it was destined some day to be the favourite narcotic of the poorer classes.

In a second edition we advise Mr. Thornbury to strike out all those passing sentences of depreciation of present times which do not spring from sincere conviction. That he should prefer the age of Elizabeth to that of Victoria is quite conceivable; but in expressing such a preference it will be well for him to consider how he words it. He may regret the picturesque dresses of Shakspeare's age, but he should not exclaim:—

Alas! for the jetting plumes, the jaunty cloaks, so unpractical and impossible, yet so fitting the time and age—before men were all tradesmen and London a mere workshop—before chivalry had died out.

Because he cannot really believe London is nothing but a workshop, all men nothing but tradesmen, and all chivalry extinct. If men no longer cut down avenues of oaks to line a satin cloak, it is because they are more sensible of the better uses to which avenues of oaks may be put. Again when he says, "The noble was more friendly with his butler than now, when their dress is alike, and the one is *certain to be coldly insolent*, and the other vulgarly familiar," he is either writing without thought, or in entire ignorance of actual conditions. Noblemen are *not* coldly insolent to any persons, certainly not to their servants; if insolence is ever observed, it is from the butler to his lord. Writers are seldom aware of the extreme injudiciousness of saying what they do not mean; even an absurdity, when sincere, carries a certain force with it, but improvised opinions and stereotyped phrases are always betrayals.

We shall return again to these volumes for a pleasant detail or two; meanwhile we commend them as very pretty gossip about a very interesting age.

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS.

The History of Gustavus Adolphus, and of the Thirty Years' War, up to the King's Death.
By B. Chapman, M.A. Longman and Co.

MR. CHAPMAN collected a store of excellent materials for the biography of Gustavus Adolphus, and has made good use of them. His narrative is ample, rapid, and derived from many sources inaccessible to the ordinary English reader—the Scandinavian records, the English State Paper Office, the works of Swedish, German, and Danish historians. Some of these, writing of Gustavus Adolphus from the point of view of extreme Catholicism, have disparaged his military genius, from hatred of his religious opinions; others, equally fanatic in a Protestant sense, have crowned him as the one great captain of the Thirty Years' War. Mr. Chapman has been solicitous to restrain every prejudice that might interfere with an impartial exposition of the character and acts of the Swedish king. To estimate his capacities as a general was easier than to estimate his motives as a prince and politician. Wallenstein, his rival and his foe, pronounced him the greatest soldier of his age; Napoleon ranked him among the eight best generals the world had seen. His success was not irregular and accidental, but uniform and, so to speak, systematic. But the Germans, and Cromwell, and the French, and even the Danes, have ascribed to him an inordinate lust of power. Richelieu and the Catholics have doubted the purity of his principles of toleration. Mr. Chapman does not claim for him any superior religious liberality, nor does he deny the charge of ambition, though he argues, with justice, that the ambition of Gustavus Adolphus was not the violent and lawless ambition that has tempted other conquerors to ravage and enslave the world. It may be conceded that he did dream of establishing a dynasty of Sweden on the throne of the German Empire; that he proposed not only to quell the princes of the Catholic League, but to subordinate them to himself; and though it is always a difficult question how far even the highest genius can be permanently successful, when opposed by great military and political alliances, it may be believed that Gustavus had he survived the battle of Lützen, would have brought the Thirty Years' War to a termination very different from the peace of Westphalia. That battle, which cut short his career, did not put an end at once to his influence on the general mind of Europe. Wallenstein's retreating forces carried with them the terrors of the dead king, who left, under the command of his own generals and those of his allies, seven well-appointed armies in the field, and conquests extending over nearly two-thirds of Germany, its best cities and most considerable rivers. He had exhausted the powers of the League; the German nation scarcely reckoned him as its oppressor; all Europe was weary of the conflict that was turning a vast and fertile region into a wilderness. Some large cities had been utterly ruined—almost utterly depopulated. Three hundred illuminated and deserted houses in Nordheim and Gottingen showed that the Imperialists had marched that way. The inhabitants of Heese were reduced to a quarter of their former numbers; those of Augsburg from eighty to eighteen thousand; the soldiers mutilated the peasantry, the peasantry the

soldiers, with reciprocal brutality. For these afflictions the Leaguers pretended to hold Gustavus Adolphus responsible, though they, of course, had challenged the war by their gigantic schemes of religious reaction, and perpetuated it by their obstinacy. To Gustavus, on the other hand, it was mainly owing that mitigations of political despotism were introduced into the Palatinate; that the rights of the Protestants were placed under fair securities; that the Thirty Years' War, indeed, was not, in its results, as during its continuance, a curse to Germany and to the northern kingdoms. To his humanity, also, it was due that the Swedes and their allies did not retaliate the cruelties of the Imperialist troops. They were forbidden to molest women or children, to slay the wounded or to refuse quarter, to commit unnecessary ravages, or to pillage such towns as consented to pay a moderate ransom.

Even at Frankfurt, though the Swedish soldiers, embittered and infuriated by the ruthless sack of Brandenburg, converted their victory into a slaughter, eight hundred prisoners were taken and spared; only one unarmed citizen was killed, and that by his own fault; no woman suffered violence. At Magdeburg, a month after, when the Imperialist triumph was complete, the horrors that followed were long the reproach of the German army. The noble Tilly, it is true, may be exonerated from the enormous crime; but his discipline was lax. He did not, in imitation of Gustavus, dash sword in hand among his troops, and punish even plunderers. Indeed, he was less habituated than his great rival to act a personal part in battles and sieges. As he told Marshal Grammont, he gained several decisive actions without firing a pistol; while Gustavus laboured in the field, galloped with his cavalry when it charged the most formidable points of the enemy's line, and was, at once, a trooper and a general.

His military dispositions were consummate. At Leipsic it was the opinion of most generals of the period that he *could not* have failed after his arrangement of his troops in front of the Imperial army:—

The shallowness of the files seemed, indeed, to render them less able to resist an impetuous charge than those of the enemy, which were twice as deep. But the courage of the troops supplied the place of material solidity; and the files being so comparatively shallow, artillery made less havoc among them. Then, again, the division of the army into small maniples, with considerable intervals between each, gave space for evolutions, and the power of throwing the troops with rapidity wherever their services or support might be found requisite during the vicissitudes of the engagement.

The quaint old author of the "Swedish Discipline" sums up in this way the merits of the king's new order of battle:—

"Upon the sight of it on the map you will readily make this judgment: that one part so fences, so backs, so flanks another—is so ready to second, to relieve another, so apt either to send out succours or to receive into their hinder wards or ranks any of their former fellows that shall happen to be overlaid, that the whole army looks like some impregnable city with its bastiles, its towers, its bulwarks, and several retreats about it, so that well may the men be killed, but very hardly shall the whole order be routed. And of this we have experience in this battle, where there was not, that I can find, any one regiment put to flight but Collenbach's only. The less marvel, then, it is if 'God with us' and this order of embattling, invented by this new but royal captain, gave so full an overthrow to the eldest and best general in the world."

Mr. Chapman's history, however, is by no means a military work. It includes every point of political interest associated with the career of Gustavus. After a brief but luminous summary of the events that took place in Sweden from the death of the great Gustavus Vasa to the accession of Gustavus Adolphus, he devotes a chapter to the account of his youth, his education, his early exploits and indications of character, his love of the beautiful Ebba Brahe, whom he lost by an act of inconstancy, and his comfortless marriage with Eleonora of Brandenburg. Mr. Chapman here sketches the portrait of Gustavus:—

He was at this time still slight, tall, and well proportioned, with fair and almost golden hair, a beard inclining to brown, an aquiline nose, and a countenance whose pale gravity was tempered with great sweetness of expression. In addition to these advantages of person, and to what in female estimation was perhaps a still greater charm,—his reputation for enterprise and bravery, he was remarkably eloquent, and spoke with the frankness that belongs to constitutional courage, and the ardour which an exquisite sense of beauty, moral and physical, kindles on the tongue.

After the king's death, Mr. Chapman writes:—

In his latter years, indeed, he no longer possessed the graceful form that had belonged to him when he was the ardent and favoured suitor of Ebba Brahe; but the slight inclination to corpulence that grew with him as he advanced towards middle age detracted probably little, if at all, from the commanding dignity of his person. His countenance to the last retained its captivating sweetness and expressive variety. It was a countenance of which the most accomplished pencil could give in one effort only an inadequate idea, and which Vandyke—to whose portrait of the king none of the engravings which I have seen, probably, do justice—has represented only in repose.

This is an excellent history, worthy to be ranked with the best foreign biographies of Gustavus. It is more authentic than Mauvillon's, more impartial than Gfrörer's, and incomparably better than the English compilation by Harte.

THE DOCTRINE OF INSPIRATION.

The Doctrine of Inspiration: Being an Enquiry Concerning the Infallibility, Inspiration, and Authority of Holy Writ. By the Rev. John Macnaught, M.A., Oxon., Incumbent of St. Chrysostom's Church, Everton, Liverpool. Longman and Co.

EVIDENTLY a great change is taking place in the minds and spirits of many teachers of dogmatic religion in the present day. We have already had to notice the vast advances towards a free and liberal interpretation of the Bible made by such men as Professor Maurice and Mr. Jowett, and we have no doubt that numbers would be ready to accompany them in their mild heresy, had they the courage to front the indignation and censure of the arch oracles of church authority. We have now to include in the record the opinions of another priest of the national church, who not satisfied in conscience that the Scriptures are *infallible*, has had the boldness to follow the doubt even to the end, undaunted by any inferences he was compelled to draw, and unawed by such talismanic terms as "inspiration" and "canonicity." The result obtained by this process is that Mr. Macnaught feels his mind more at rest, and declares himself ready to maintain, against all comers, that the *authority* of the Scriptures is strengthened by his view of the case. Mr. Macnaught very cleverly argues that the numerous errors, astronomical, geological, historical, chronological, and moral, which it contains, militate at once against its infallibility and against its *inspiration* according to the general acceptance of that term; whilst its *canonicity* is

so mixed up with uncertain traditions—some books having been rejected whilst others have been retained—upon what authority not even dogmatism can say—that this position is proved to be equally untenable with the others.

Mr. Macnaught stands by no means alone in his opinion, though probably he is the first who has worked out the thesis with perfect calmness and confidence. Dr. Arnold speaks of the question of the fallibility or infallibility of the Scriptures as "that momentous question which involves in it such a shock to existing notions; the greatest, probably, that has ever been given since the discovery of the falsehood of the doctrine of the Pope's infallibility. Yet it must come, he continues, and will end in spite of the fears and clamours of the weak and bigoted, in the higher exalting and more sure establishing of Christian truth." Dr. Hinds, Bishop of Norwich, argues that, "it is not truth of all kinds that the Bible was inspired to teach, but only such truth as tends to religious edification; and the Bible is consequently infallible, as far as regards this and this alone." The scholarly and logical Whately maintains that "in matters, indeed, unconnected with religion, such as points of history, or natural philosophy, a writer who professes (as the Apostles do) to be communicating a divine revelation, imparted to him through the means of miracles, may be as liable to error as other men, without any disparagement to his pretensions." His credentials, however, ought to be well vided to attest that he is not an impostor. Dr. Hampden, Bishop of Hereford, goes still further than the writers we have quoted, and shows that Christianity left ethical science precisely where it found it; and that all the duties which ethical science prescribes remain on their old footing, not altered or weakened, but affirmed and strengthened by the association of religion. "And so independent," he continues, "is the science of ethics of the support and the ennobling which it receives from religion, that it would be nothing strange or objectionable in a revelation, were we to find embodied in its language much of the false ethical philosophy which systems may have established. This, I conceive, would appear to those who bear in mind the real distinctness of religion and moral science, nothing more objectionable than the admission into the sacred volume of descriptions involving false theories of natural philosophy." It is in this way that the right reverend prelate would cancel the passages that militate against the high moral character of the Deity in the Bible, where the treachery and assassination of Jael, for instance, is represented as noble deeds; where the extirpation of different tribes is said to be authorized by God; and where the prevarication of Abraham is mentioned without reprehension. We might quote numerous examples of such moral discrepancies, but we are losing sight of our author and his argument.

Mr. Macnaught has divided his essay into five books, distributing his subject under as many heads. In the first book, he asks, does the Bible permit us to regard its teachings as infallible? In the second, what reason have we for expecting the Bible to be infallible? In the third, he investigates the meaning of the term "inspiration." In the fourth, he indicates the authority of Scripture by showing that it reveals things belonging to the future condition of man perfectly consistent with reason, which he maintains heathen philosophers failed to do,—thus all its teachings are encouraging and consoling,—and further shows to his clerical brethren that he position he has assumed does in no degree interfere with what they subscribed at their ordination, and that in fact neither the Prayer Book nor the Homilies contradict or militate against his view of the question.

We cannot accompany Mr. Macnaught through the subdivisions of his subject. We can fully testify, however, to the candour and accuracy with which he deals with this important question. He pursues his course step by step with logical precision; his language is clear and sound, and his

argument is conducted with dignity. It remains with those who uphold the infallibility and the divine inspiration of Holy Writ to prove that he is wrong.

The Arts.

THE CHARACTER OF IAGO.

A VERY interesting lecture on one of the most subtle and profound of SHAKESPEARE's characters was delivered on Wednesday evening, at the Marylebone Literary and Scientific Institution, by Mr. CHARLES A. COLE. The object of the lecturer was to show that *Iago* is not, as generally supposed, a mere devil, but that he is a man of a perfectly natural, every-day character—a person such as we frequently encounter in our common intercourse—a sceptic, a materialist, a utilitarian, who measures vice and virtue, good and evil, or whatever else presents itself to his scoffing intellect, simply by the profit it will yield him. "Will it pay?"—that is his only thought. He sneers at all things, even at himself and his own jibing heart, till at length, like the ancient Sophists, he doubts whether he doubts, and, addressing the "Divinity of Hell," becomes a Manichæan, and worships the Spirit of Evil. Every sceptic should tremble at him as a reflexion of himself. Yet he is not a mere incarnation of vice from the first, but is led on gradually to the commission of his final villainy, which, at the commencement of his career, he has not even proposed to his own soul. He fancies that *Othello* has injured him by seducing his wife; afterwards, he is really injured by being placed in an inferior position in the army to *Cassio*, who has had less experience than himself. This slight gives him an excuse for paltering with his inmost mind, and representing his revenge on *Cassio* as a public-spirited act. He becomes "an Administrative Reformer, who has been irritated by being passed over in favour of a person of less worth, and sent to the Crimea, after long experience, with a featherbed soldier over his head." In the like manner—under a distorted sense of doing something he is justified in doing—he lures *Othello* into misery and crime, and *Desdemona* to her death. *Othello* himself is a man of noble heart, with imagination and passions so strong as to overbalance his intellect, which is comparatively weak; and he is punished for not meeting the first crafty insinuations of *Iago* in the way that a man of more vigorous mind would have met them—by utter disbelief founded on the transparent purity of *Desdemona*. In thus shadowing forth the salient points in the two great characters of the drama, Mr. COLE begged his hearers to remember that SHAKESPEARE never puts forth cut-and-dry lessons after the copy-book fashion, but leaves the moral to rise naturally from the incidents and persons; that he is not professedly didactic; and that he does not seek to impress any sharply-defined maxims of right or wrong, "as in a child's impromptu play, or the works of great French dramatists." "An effeminate modern moralist" would have disabused *Othello's* mind in time, would have saved *Desdemona's* life, and made all end happily; but not so SHAKESPEARE.

Such is a brief abstract of the theory propounded by Mr. COLE—an abstract in which we cannot do justice to the felicities of expression by which the criticisms were worked out, or to the clear and forcible manner in which they were delivered. The conception of *Iago* is perhaps not entirely new, but it rescues SHAKESPEARE from the foolish charge of having made a mere monster of purposeless malignity. We can only express our entire assent in Mr. COLE's views, and congratulate him on the earnest attention with which he was listened to, and the applause with which he was greeted, by an evidently thoughtful auditory.

By the way, Mr. COLE said that, when *Iago* has successfully poisoned *Othello's* mind, he concludes, "like a newspaper editor of the present day," by exhorting him not to think too much of the reports in circulation. Now, we take exception to being classed, together with our brethren, as so many *Iagos*.

[The extraordinary pressure upon our space this week in the news department obliges us to defer a notice of Mdlle. JOHANNA WÄGNER, and of Count ARRIVABENE's Lectures on Dante and the Italian Drama.]

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

UNTLY.—On the 14th inst., at Orton Longville, the Marchioness of Huntly: a son.

ILDMAY.—On the 18th inst., at 23, Chesham-street, Belgrave, the lady of Sir Henry St. John Mildmay, Bart.: a daughter.

AKLEY.—On Saturday, the 14th inst., at No 7, Arlington-square, Piccadilly, the wife of Thomas Wakley, Esq., F.R.C.S.: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

ANKIEWICZ—PIGOTT.—On the 7th inst., at St. George's, Bloomsbury, James Ankiewicz, Esq., of Danzig, also of Sutton Villas, Camden-road, Holloway, to Ada Susan, daughter of the late John Allen Pigott, Esq., of Heathcote-street, Mecklenburg-square.

ITCHENSON—FRANKLIN.—On the 17th inst., at Spratton, Northamptonshire, the Rev. Henry Clarke Mitchelson, M.A., of King Edward's Grammar School, East Bedford, to Emma Maria, daughter of the late Major Franklin, of the 1st Bengal Cavalry, granddaughter of the late Lieut.-General Sir Thomas Brown, K.C.B., H.E.I.C.S., and niece of the late Rear-Admiral Sir John Franklin.

INGLIS—ROBINSON.—On the 3rd ult., at the Mahabeshwar-hills, Bombay Presidency, Professor Sinclair, LL.D., to Mary Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the late John R. Robinson, Esq., of Banff, N.B.

DEATHS.

DUCKETT.—On the 15th inst., at 24, Gloucester-gardens, Sir George Duckett, Bart., F.R.S., P.S.A., &c., in the 79th year of his age.

ILL.—On the 14th inst., at 70, Bridge-road, Lambeth, in his 48th year, Mr. Henry Hill, late Premier Viola, Royal Italian Opera.

ORSFALL.—On the 15th inst., at 10, Portland-place, aged 19, Matilda Jane, second daughter of Thomas B. Horsfall, Esq., M.P.

BUCKETT.—On the 12th inst., at 9, Suffolk-parade, Cheltenham, Rear-Admiral Thomas Prickett, aged 68.

ALBIGH.—At Calcutta, of the effects of cholera, in his 45th year, Major Frederick Raleigh, of the 1st Regiment Bengal Native Infantry, and Commandant of the 1st Local Regiment, or Calcutta Militia.

OGERS.—On the 12th inst., at Penrose, Cornwall, the Rev. John Rogers, M.A., canon residentiary of Exeter Cathedral, in his 78th year.

AUBYN.—On the 14th inst., at Lime-grove, Putney, Lady St. Aubyn, aged 87.

ALBOT.—On the 8th inst., at Naples, the Lady Victoria Susan Talbot, after a lengthened illness.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, June 17.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—DANIEL DAVIS, Newington-causeway, glass merchant—JOHN THOMAS BAYS, late of the London-road, Southwark, and Wisbeach, miller.

BANKRUPTS.—ALEXANDER PAINE, Croydon, innkeeper—FRANCISCO DE SALVO, Leadenhall-street, merchant—WILLIAM SMITH and JAMES KIDDER, Church-street, Shore-ditch, grocers—JAMES CHAPMAN, late of King's Norton, Worcester-shire, licensed victualler—ROBERT THOMAS RIPPINGALE, Newark-upon-Trent, frock-manufacturer—WILLIAM ADAMS MANNING, Totnes, corndealer—SAMUEL POUND, jun., Dartmouth, ropemaker—WILLIAM BENSON STOREY, Liverpool, draper—JOHN STANANOUGH, Liverpool, licensed victualler.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.—J. POLLOCK, Glasgow, dyewood manufacturer.

Friday, June 20.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—GEORGE HARDING, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, innkeeper.

BANKRUPTS.—CHARLES VENABLES, the younger, Clifden, Bucks, paper manufacturer—WILLIAM ADAMS MANNING, Totnes, Devon, corn dealer—JOSIAH TREGILLAS, Saint Agnes, Cornwall, draper—JOHN WOODROFFE, City, licensed victualler—JOHN RUMENS, Lower Clapton, Middlesex, builder—JOHN EDWARDS, Wolverhampton, wine merchant—SAMUEL POUND, junior, Dartmouth, ropemaker—THOMAS DUNSTON, Taunton, brewer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—CAMERON and CO., Springfield Mills, near Edinburgh, paper-makers—THOMAS HUGH DONNELLY, lately shipowner in Greenock, surgeon.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, June 20, 1856.

THE state of our market is much more satisfactory since last week. The American difficulty seems in a fair way of being arranged, and the temperate tone taken by our ministers has had the effect of giving great confidence to the capitalist.

The funds are 94½ ex dividend, and all the English share market has felt the improvement. London and South Westerns, Brightons, Berwicks, Leeds, and Midlands, are 12 to 30s. better than at the settlement of the account.

In foreign Stocks, Mexican stock hangs fire. No prepara-

tions are talked of for the payment of dividends as had been once fondly anticipated. In Turkish six and four per cents there are strong buyers at 102 and 104½ respectively. Foreign railway shares are not so good. There has been a sudden rise in the much despised Swedish railway shares. It is a complete lottery-ticket buying a 52 share at 12, you may get your money back with cent. per cent. interest, or lose all your money. Money is much easier, and the increase of bullion from Australia and other parts of the world will go far to force the banks to reduce their rates.

The monetary state of France is considered as unhealthy, and the mystery of a budget never being revealed under that happy despotism, every one is in the dark as to expenditure and resources, and in this case the worst may be expected.

It is to be hoped that the summer may prove fine throughout Europe, to alleviate the possible dearth arising from the fearful inundations which have taken place in France. It seems a nervous time just now even here—the weather far from settled, and all these accidents raise or depress our sensitive plants, "Consols."

In general and miscellaneous business there has been nothing doing—a few Mining Shares and Crystal Palaces. Joint Stock Banks are much firmer, and continue to be inquired after. At four o'clock Consols close at 94½, 94½, x. d. for the opening.

Aberdeen, 20½, 27½; Bristol and Exeter, 90, 92; Caledonian 62½, 63; Chester and Holyhead, 16, 16½; East Anglian, 17½, 18½; Eastern Counties, 10½, 10½; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 60, 62; Great Northern, 96, 97; Ditto, A stock, 78, 80; Ditto, B stock, 130, 131; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 100, 108; Great Western, 63½, 64½; Lancaster and Carlisle, 68, 73; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 95, 95½; London and Blackwall, 7, 7½; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 105, 107; London and North-Western, 103½, 104½; London and South Western, 103½, 104½; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 50½, 51; Midland, 60½, 60½; Birmingham and Derby, 50, 52; Newport, Abergavenny, and Hereford, 13, 15; North British, 36½, 37½; North Eastern (Berwick), 83½, 84½; Ditto, Extension, 4½, 4 dis.; Ditto, Great North Eastern Purchase, 3, 2½ dis.; Ditto, Leeds, 18½, 19½; Ditto, York, 59, 60; North Staffordshire, 58, 58 dis.; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 30½, 31½; Scottish Central, 102, 104; Scottish Midland, 76, 78; South Devon, 14, 15; South Eastern, 72½, 73½; South Wales, 74½, 75½; Vale of Neath, 19½, 20; West Cornwall, 6½, 7½; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 8½, 8½; Bombay and Baroda, 14, 2 pm.; Dutch Rhenish, 14½, 15 pm.; Bombay of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 36½, 36½; East Indian, 23½, 24½; Ditto, Extension, 23½, 23½; Grand Trunk of Canada, A issue, 14½, 15½; Great Central of France, 54, 55 pm.; Great Indian Peninsula, 22½, 23.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday, June 20, 1856.

During the week the arrivals of all Grain into London have been trifling. The advance of 2s. on Wheat, established on Monday has been fully maintained, though the amount of business done on the spot has not been large. In floating and arrived cargoes (which latter are few in number) of Wheat and Maize, there has been greater activity at higher rates. Up to last night, the sales reported are as follow:—Kafat Wheat, on passage, 59s. to 59s. 6d.; Taganrog Ghirka, for immediate shipment, 55s. since this sale, contracts have been made for 10,000 qrs. of the same description for shipment in July at 57s. 6d., and 10,000 qrs. at 58s., both per ship, and guaranteed to be delivered in good condition. Wheat, on passage, has been sold at 55s. to 56s., and a cargo of heated Ibrail Wheat, arrived, at 54s. all cost, freight and insurance. Maize is more enquired for, at advancing rates. On Wednesday, a cargo of Galatz, arrived, was sold at 38s. for the Continent; one of Ibrail, arrived, at 32s. for the United Kingdom; and one of Galatz, on passage, at 32s.; and another of Galatz, earlier in the week, at 31s. Yesterday several cargoes of Galatz on passage were sold at 32s. 6d. and one of Odessa at 32s. Barley, Oats and Beans are firm.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.
(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Frid.
Bank Stock	94½	94½	218	218	218	94½
3 per Cent. Red.	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½
3 per Cent. Cons. An.	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½
New 3 per Cent. An.	94½	94½	95	95½	95	95½
New 2½ per Cent.	8 3-16				8 5-16	
Long Ans. 1850						
India Stock		10 p	12 p	13 p	10 p	11 p
Ditto Bonds, £1000		6 p	12 p	13 p	13 p	14 p
Ditto, under £1000		10 p	7 p	11 p	12 p	12 p
Ex. Bills, £1000			10 p	11 p	12 p	10 p
Ditto, £500		10 p	10 p	10 p	13 p	13 p
Ditto, Small						

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING FRIDAY EVENING.)

Brazilian Bonds	101	Portuguese 4 per Cents.	...
Buenos Ayres 6½ per Cents	78½	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents	108½
Chilian 3 per Cents	105	Russian 4½ per Cents	98½
Dutch 2½ per Cents	66	Spanish	25½
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	96	Spanish Committee Cer.	6½
Equador Bonds	22½	of Coup. not fun.	102½
Mexican Account	78½	Turkish 6 per Cents	104½
Peruvian 4½ per Cents	...	Turkish New, 4 ditto	...
Portuguese 4 per Cents	...	Venezuela, 4½ per Cents	...

DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM,
4, Coventry-street, Leicester-square. Open (for gentlemen only) from Ten till Ten, containing upwards of one thousand models and preparations, illustrating every part of the human frame in health and disease, the race of man &c. Lectures delivered at Twelve, Two, and at Half-past Seven, by Dr. G. Serton, F.R.G.S.; and a new and highly interesting Series of Lectures is now in course of delivery by Dr. Kahn, at Four P.M. precisely.—Admission 1s.

BLAIR'S GOUT AND RHEUMATIC PILLS.

This preparation is one of the benefits which the science of modern chemistry has conferred upon mankind, for, during the first twenty years of the present century, to speak of a cure for the Gout was considered a romance—but now the efficacy and safety of this medicine is so fully demonstrated by unsolicited testimonials from persons in every rank of life, that public opinion proclaims this as one of the most important discoveries of the present age.

Sold by **PEOUT and HARSANT**, 229, Strand, London, and all Medicine Vendors.
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A NEW AND IMPORTANT DISCOVERY IN THE SCIENCE OF MEDICINE.

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TRIESEMAR, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, prepared in the form of a lozenge, devoid of taste or smell, and can be carried in the waistcoat pocket. Sold in tin cases, divided into separate doses, as administered by Valpeau, Lallemand, Roux, Ricord, &c., &c.

TRIESEMAR, No. 1., is a Remedy for Relaxation, Spasmodism, and all the distressing consequences arising from early abuse, indiscriminate excesses, or too long residence in hot climates. It has restored bodily and sexual strength and vigour to thousands of debilitated individuals, who are now enjoying health and the functions of Manhood; and whatever may be the CAUSE of DISQUALIFICATIONS for MARRIAGE, they are EFFECTUALLY SUBDUED by this Wonderful Discovery!

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Price—1s. 1½d. per box, in one for 3s., which saves 11s.; and in 10 boxes, saving 13 1½s. To be had wholesale and retail of **PEOUT and HARSANT**, 229, Strand, London; and of all Chemists, Druggists, and Medicine Vendors. Sole British Agents, **PEOUT and HARSANT**, 229, Strand, London; and of all Chemists, Druggists, and Medicine Vendors. Sole Foreign Agents, **PEOUT and HARSANT**, 229, Strand, London; and of all Chemists, Druggists, and Medicine Vendors.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. ARTHUR WIGAN.

Monday and during the week will be produced a New Farce entitled **A FASCINATING INDIVIDUAL**. Principal characters by Messrs. Emery and F. Robson; Misses Marston and Castleton. After which the New Drama of **RETRIBUTION**. Principal characters by Messrs. A. Wigan, Emery, G. Vining, G. Murray, Leslie, Franks; Miss Marston and Miss Herbert. To conclude with **CATCHING A MERMAID**: Titus Tuffins, Mr. F. Robson.

MADAME JENNY GOLDSCHMIDT-LIND.

at Exeter Hall.—Last and Farewell Concerts.—WEDNESDAY EVENING NEXT, June 25, Haydn's oratorio, **THE CREATION**. To commence at 8 o'clock. Principal singers: Madame Goldschmidt, Mr. Lockey, and Mr. Weiss. Conductor: M. Benedict. And MONDAY EVENING, June 30, grand MISCELLANEOUS CONCERT, with full band and chorus, it being the last concert which will be given by Madame Goldschmidt in this country. Reserved and numbered seats, One Guinea; unreserved seats (west gallery and body of the hall), 10s. 6d.; area (under west gallery), 7s. Applications for tickets received by Mr. Mitchell, Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street. The tickets for the last concert will be delivered on Thursday next, the 26th of June.

CONCERT BOUFFE, Donné par LEVAS-

SOR, Hanover-square Rooms, VENDREDI PROCHAIN, le 27 Juin, 1856, à trois heures.—Les Deux Gen darmes, Chansonnette Comique Nouvelle, par M. Levassor; Le Voyage Aérien, par M. Jules Lefort; Parodie du Voyage Aérien, Scène Bouffe, exécutée par M. Levassor; Le Nouveau Vestris, Parodie, mélé de Danse, par M. Levassor; Des Bêtises, Chanson Nouvelle, par M. Levassor; Un Cours d'Histoire, sur les Trois Règnes, Animal, Minéral, et Végétal, Scène Bouffe Nouvelle, par M. Levassor. Pour finir avec Les Deux Aveugles (joués avec grand succès à Paris), Opérette Bouffe, en Un Acte, jouée par MM. Jules Lefort et Levassor. Reserved and numbered stalls, 10s. 6d.; body of the room, 7s.—Applications for tickets to be made to Mr. Mitchell, Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—GRAND HORTI-

CULTURAL FETE.—The Second Flower Show of the present season will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, the 25th and 26th instant. On Wednesday, the 25th, the doors will be opened at 12 o'clock. Admission by Season Tickets, or by payment of 7s. 6d. On Thursday, the 26th, the doors will be opened at 10 o'clock. Admission by Season Tickets, or by payment of 2s. 6d. For the accommodation of Gardeners a special train will leave London Bridge Station at 6 o'clock A.M. on Wednesday, the 25th. Trains will run from London Bridge at frequent intervals.

Tickets of Admission, including conveyance by railway, may be obtained previously at the London Bridge Terminus, at the several agents of the Brighton Company, and at the Company's Offices, 43, Regent Circus, Piccadilly.
June 20, 1856.

FRENCH EXHIBITION.

THE THIRD ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS by Modern Artists of the FRENCH SCHOOL is NOW OPEN, at the GALLERY, 121, Pall Mall. Admittance 1s. Season Tickets 5s. Catalogues 6d.
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Specially rewarded for its purity and efficacy by the Governments of BELGIUM and THE NETHERLANDS, and sanctioned by the ROYAL SANITARY POLICE OF PRUSSIA.

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS:**THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR OF HOLLAND.**

I have the honour of bringing to your knowledge that it has pleased the King to grant you, by his decree No. 101, a silver medal, with an appropriate honorary inscription, as a testimony of his Majesty's high approbation of your efforts in securing to this country a supply of the purest and most efficacious Cod Liver Oil.

(Signed) VAN DER HEIM.

To Dr. De Jongh, at the Hague.

THE INTENDANT OF THE CIVIL LIST OF BELGIUM.

Sir—The King has charged me to return you his very particular thanks for the homage done to him by the presentation of your most valuable researches concerning the Cod Liver Oil; as an expression of his utmost satisfaction, his Majesty has given me the order of presenting you with the accompanying large gold medal.—I remain, with the highest regard, &c.,

(Signed) CONWE.

To Dr. De Jongh, at the Hague.

Sold Wholesale and Retail, in bottles capsuled and labelled with Dr. de Jongh's Stamp and Signature, WITHOUT WHICH NONE ARE GENUINE; by **ANSAR, HARFORD, and CO.**, sole British Commissionaires, 77, Strand, London; and by many respectable Chemists and Druggists throughout the United Kingdom.

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The manifold advantages to the heads of families from the possession of a medicine of known efficacy, that may be resorted to with confidence, and used with success in cases of temporary sickness, occurring in families more or less every day, are so obvious to all, that no question can be raised of its importance to every housekeeper in the kingdom.

For females, these Pills are truly excellent, removing all obstructions, the distressing headache so very prevalent with the sex, depression of spirits, dulness of sight, nervous affections, blotches, pimples, and sallowness of the skin, and produce a healthy complexion.

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TURE.—**WILLIAM S. BURTON'S** Stock on show of Iron and Brass Bedsteads and children's Cots, stands unrivalled either for extent, beauty of design, or moderateness of prices. He also supplies Bedding and Bed-hangings of guaranteed quality and workmanship.

Common Iron Bedsteads, from 16s.; Portable Folding Bedsteads, from 12s. 6d.; Patent Iron Bedsteads, fitted with dovetail joints and patent sacking, from 17s.; and Cots, from 20s. each. Handsome ornamental Iron and Brass Bedsteads, in great variety, from 27 7s. 6d. to 151 15s. A Half-Tester Patent Iron Bedstead, three feet wide, with Bedding, &c., complete:

Bedstead	£1 4 6
Chintz furniture	0 17 0
Pailasse, wool mattress, bolster, and pillow	1 13 0
A pair of cotton sheets, three blankets, and a coloured counterpane	1 5 0
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Single bed, complete.....£3 13 9
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An assortment of TEA-TRAYS and WAITERS wholly unprecedented, whether as to extent, variety, or novelty. New Oval Papier Maché Trays,

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Ditto, Iron ditto.....from 13s. 0d. to 4 guineas.
Convex shape, ditto.....from 7s. 6d.
Round and gothic waiters, cake and bread-baskets equally low.

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WATER. Having leased the Holy Well Spring at Malvern, renowned for its purity, J. S. and Co. can now produce a SELTZER WATER with all the CHEMICAL and MEDICINAL properties which have rendered the Nassau Spring so celebrated. They continue Manufacturing SODA, MAGNESIA, and POTASS WATERS and LEMONADE, at LONDON, LIVERPOOL, BRISTOL, and DERBY.

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MINERAL NATURAL WATERS OF

VICHY.—The increasing demand for these Waters, as valuable remedial agents, by the Upper Classes in England, has induced the Company to whom the French Government has conceded the privilege of vending them, to form an Establishment in London, where they may be obtained in any quantities precisely as they are bottled at the springs. The PASTILS or LOZENGES prepared from the Saline Constituents of the Vichy Waters, and the SALTS, for Internal Use or for Baths, so celebrated on the Continent for all Stomach, Liver, and Renal Diseases, Gout, Rheumatism, &c., are also kept at the VICHY WATERS COMPANY'S DEPOT, 27, MARGARET STREET, CAVENTISH-SQUARE.

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NOT TO BE SURPASSED FOR THE CURE OF SORE LEGS.—Mr. Mercer, Chemist, Liverpool, states that Mr. Atkins, a customer of his, suffered for eight or nine years from an ulcerated leg, and at one time had twenty holes in it. He applied different remedies, and was under the treatment of several eminent surgeons, but without deriving benefit. He then tried Holloway's Ointment and Pills, which, with a strict attention to the directions for their use, have effected a sound and perfect cure.

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